

April 20: 'End U.S. war in Central America'

BY FRED FELDMAN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Chants of "USA, CIA out of Nicaragua," and "Hey, hey, ho, ho, apartheid has got to go," rang through the streets here on April 20 as tens of thousands of people rallied and marched to oppose U.S. imperialism's actions at home and abroad.

The demonstration — part of the four day April Actions for Jobs, Peace, and Justice — represented a broad and massive protest against the U.S. war against Nicaragua and U.S. government and corporate support to the racist regime in South Africa.

The April actions were called around four demands:

- Stop U.S. military intervention in Central America. End intervention in the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia, the Pacific, and Europe.
- Build a just society by creating jobs, cutting military spending, and providing for human needs. End racism and discrimination based on sex and sexual orientation.
- Freeze and reverse the arms race, beginning with a halt on the testing, production, and deployment of nuclear weapons.
- Oppose U.S. government and corporate support for South African apartheid and overcome racism at home.

The demonstration was estimated at 65,000 people by April Actions coordinator Damu Smith, who chaired the closing rally. It sent an unmistakable message to the U.S. rulers. Their war against the Nicaraguan revolution and their alliance with the racist rulers of South Africa face a developing movement of opposition that has the potential to mobilize growing support in the union movement and the Black and Latino communities, as well as on college and high school campuses and elsewhere.

The antiwar marchers helped further expose the fact that Washington is carrying out a real war today against Nicaragua — a war that is taking thousands of lives of



Tens of thousands marched against the U.S. government's war in Central America and against its support for South African apartheid. Actions were held in Washington, D.C. (above), San Francisco, and other cities.

workers, farmers, and young people.

More than ninety organizations endorsed the march, and many more participated. Endorsers included eight national unions: the International Association of Machinists; International Glassworkers Union; International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union; United Electrical Workers; United Farm Workers; United Food and Commercial Workers; National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees; and United Steelworkers of America.

Other endorsers included the North American Farm Alliance; the United States Student Association; League of United Latin American Citizens; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Operation PUSH; National Council of Senior Citizens; Congress of National Black

Churches; Nuclear Weapons Freeze Campaign; National Congress of Puerto Rican Rights; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; SANE; National Network in Solidarity with the Nicaraguan People; the Rainbow Coalition; Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador; several gay and lesbian rights organizations; and many others.

A few prominent Democratic Party politicians participated, most notably Jesse Jackson and Rep. John Conyers.

Together with American Indian Movement leader Vernon Bellecourt, Jackson walked at the head of the march from the White House Ellipse to the Capitol steps.

The marchers were of many nationalities. U.S. Blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans, Puerto Ricans, Dominicans, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Costa Ricans, Hondurans, Uruguayans, Canadians, Koreans, Filipinos, Chinese, Vietnamese, Lebanese, and others marched and rallied.

The mood was militant.

The predominantly youthful participants were eager to hear more about and discuss the issues that inspired the April Actions. And they looked forward to more actions aimed at winning still wider backing.

An indication of this was the call by students from Berkeley, Columbia, Cornell, Princeton, Rutgers, and Santa Cruz for a

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FBI admits harassment of visitors to Nicaragua

BY HARRY RING

Recent revelations confirm an escalating pattern of government harassment of people who have visited Nicaragua or who are involved in opposition to Washington's war in Central America.

The aim of this harassment is to intimidate those traveling to Nicaragua and other opponents of the U.S. war in Central America. It is also to lay the groundwork for curtailing most, if not all, travel to Nicaragua.

Illegal prying, disruptions, and victimization have been engaged in by the FBI, the Post Office, the Internal Revenue Service, the Customs Service, and the Defense Investigative Service. The FBI said some of its interrogations were done at the request of the CIA and the National Security Council.

FBI director William Webster told a House committee April 17 that the FBI had questioned 100 travelers to Nicaragua over the past two years.

Despite a long, documented record of FBI harassment of those with dissident views, Webster asserted that there was a "specific foreign counterintelligence" purpose for the visits, invidiously suggesting that those targeted may be involved in spying against the United States.

Responding to evidence by members of Congress that those visited had been sub-

jected to political intimidation by the FBI snoopers, Webster responded that if any agents had done this, they would be "chastized."

Rep. Patricia Schroeder, Democrat of Colorado, pointed to the involvement of the Defense Investigative Service (DIS) in the campaign of harassment. A Pentagon political police agency, the DIS is supposed to probe "security" qualifications of workers in war-related industries. In numerous cases it has spied on and attempted to victimize socialist workers and union activists.

Representative Schroeder said that this past March, Sally Brown, one of her staff assistants in Denver, was questioned by a DIS agent about a prayer meeting commemorating the 1980 right-wing assassination of Salvadoran Catholic Archbishop Oscar Romero.

The DIS cop asked Brown if she would identify participants in the prayer service and if she had seen anyone selling newspapers at the gathering.

In Michigan, Sara Murray, staff organizer for the Interfaith Committee on Central American Rights, told the *New York Times* that the organization had sent out three separate first-class mailings, but that only one of about 100 letters was ever delivered.

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Sandinista and Miskito talks 'blow to U.S. war'

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — There has been an important breakthrough in the negotiations between this country's workers and peasants government and the armed Miskito Indian group MISURASATA, which took up arms against the Sandinista revolution several years ago. As part of the U.S.-directed war against Nicaragua, MISURASATA carried out military attacks on the country's Atlantic Coast from bases in Costa Rica.

Meeting in Mexico City April 20-22, MISURASATA and the Nicaraguan government agreed to an immediate end to "armed offensive actions" and to a general amnesty for all Nicaraguan Indians currently imprisoned in connection with MISURASATA activities or those of MISURA, another armed group which works with CIA-trained counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) in Honduras.

MISURASATA began negotiations with the Sandinistas late last fall, following the decision of its leader Brooklyn Rivera to visit Nicaragua under the government's amnesty provisions. Rivera's decision came in the context of growing support for the Nicaraguan revolution by Miskitos, reflected in the formation of a prorevolutionary Miskito group inside the country, and the success of Nicaraguan troops in dealing big blows to the contra forces based in both Costa Rica and Honduras.

Rivera's decision to negotiate with the Sandinistas was sharply condemned by the main contra groups as well as some members of his own organization.

The Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), on the other hand, has made every effort to keep negotiations going. As FSLN leader Luis Carrión explained, an agreement that ended the fighting on the Atlantic Coast would be "a blow to the war policies of the imperialist aggressors."

Heading the two sides in the talks in Mexico City were Carrión and Rivera. A joint communiqué issued following the meeting explained that the discussions had been held "in an atmosphere of frank respect" and that there had been "concrete advances toward mutual understanding and in the exploration of measures to promote the peace and welfare of the people of the Nicaraguan Atlantic Coast."

The joint communiqué explained that

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Berkeley students hit apartheid

BY GEORGES SAYAD

BERKELEY, Calif. — On April 16 at about 6 a.m., University of California police moved in on anti-apartheid protesters on the University of California Berkeley campus. Protesters, numbering about

150, were conducting a sit-in on the steps of Sproul Hall, which has since been renamed Steven Biko Hall in memory of the martyred leader of the South African Black Consciousness movement. The protest was against university policy of investment in South Africa. The University of California system has about \$1.7 billion invested in companies doing business in South Africa. The students demanded, "Divest now!"

Under orders from the University of

California Berkeley chancellor, I. Michael Heyman, the police proceeded to arrest the protesters in the early dawn raid — 143 were arrested. In a subsequent bust the same day, 15 members of the student government were also arrested.

This policy of police repression, rather than quelling the protests, was met by a deeper mobilization of students against apartheid and university complicity with the South African regime. On the very same day, 3,000 students assembled on the steps of Steven Biko Hall, protesting the arrests and demanding the university divest its investments from South Africa. The sit-in resumed, going into its eighth day.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Anti-apartheid Students and the Association of Graduate Student Employees called for a campuswide boycott of classes and for further protests for the following day, April 17.

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SELLING OUR PRESS AT THE PLANT GATE

BY DAN DOUGLAS

SAN JOSE, Calif. — FMC is the largest manufacturer of military tracked vehicles in the world. Workers at the plant often see TV news shots of tanks they helped make being used in Lebanon and Honduras. In San Jose, FMC employs about 2,500 workers organized by the International Association of Machinists (IAM). Many of them have been introduced to the *Militant* and the Spanish-language biweekly *Perspectiva Mundial* by supporters of the two newspapers who have worked in the plant for several years.

But *Militant* supporters inside the plant like to see our weekly or-

ganized sales at four different FMC plant gates.

One supporter in the plant reported, "One worker I sold the *Militant* to said he found a copy in the plant, read it, and liked it. But he worked in another section of the plant, and we never had a chance to meet before."

"Now he regularly buys the *Militant*, and we have good discussions about the union, the U.S. war in Central America, and other political issues."

This new *Militant* reader recently came to the socialist bookstore in San Jose and also attended a socialist forum against apartheid.

Lockheed Missile and Space Corp. employs 8,000 IAM members, and Westinghouse about 1,000 IAM members in Sunnyvale. Both are large war contractors.

Lockheed Corp., which produces the Trident missile, among other things, is so paranoid about an antiwar newspaper being sold at its gates that it painted a blue line around its plant. *Militant* sales teams are not supposed to step over this line.

New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. in Fremont was recently added to our plant-gate sales, now that the plant is gearing up to begin production of a new automobile produced jointly by General

Motors and Toyota. There are presently 1,000 United Auto Workers (UAW) members working there, with the majority still on probation. In the last two sales there we sold two *Militants* and one *Perspectiva Mundial*.

During the past month, supporters of the *Militant* newspaper in San Jose distributed 2,000 leaflets at plant gates to help build the April 20 antiwar march in San Francisco. During the same period, we also sold 13 *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials* at the plant gates and greatly increased the regularity of our sales.

Workers in these plants are thinking about the war. IAM

Local 565 at Westinghouse endorsed April 20, and IAM Local 562 at FMC voted to buy \$25 worth of tickets for its members on the "Harriet Tubman" train that was organized to go to the San Francisco demonstration from San Jose.

Many other workers also bought tickets for the train from *Militant* supporters who work in the plants. These workers participated in the march. For some it was their first demonstration and now they will be able to regularly read about the U.S. war in Central America, the struggle against apartheid in South Africa, and the government's arms buildup in the pages of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

Protests hit military frame-up of Black marine

BY BETSY SOARES

LOUISVILLE — "Lindsey Scott's case is nothing but a racist issue just like the Scottsboro boys or any other frame-up of a Black in the history of the United States. The attack on Lindsey is an attack on all of us and that's why the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression has adopted the case as a national priority," declared Mattie Jones, chair of the Kentucky chapter of the Alliance at the April 13 Militant Labor Forum in Louisville.

Forty-five people attended the meeting held in defense of Lindsey Scott, a 30-year-old Black marine who was convicted by a military court 18 months ago in Quantico, Virginia, and sentenced to 30 years at hard labor for the rape and attempted murder of a white woman.

"No evidence was ever presented tying Lindsey to the crime, and witnesses who

placed him 20 miles away from the scene of the crime at the time it was committed were completely disregarded. They know Lindsey is innocent. He is in jail because he is Black," explained Scott's father, James Scott. He described the year-and-a-half long defense effort that has been waged and how the case was brought to national prominence through a segment on CBS's *60 Minutes* program. The Lindsey Scott Legal Fund has raised \$8,000 to date to pay for some of the legal fees incurred through the court battle and appeal process. The case is now in the hands of a military review board, which can rule to drop the charges or grant Scott a new trial.

"This is a critical time. Lindsey sits in a prison cell in Leavenworth, Kansas, away from his wife and daughter, while the marines decide nothing. We need to flood the review board with letters and telegrams. We need to keep on fighting," said Scott's father.

Other speakers were Father Thomas Clark, a Catholic priest who is active in raising funds for the legal defense and Rev. Edward Reynolds, representing the Kentucky Southern Christian Leadership Conference. After the speakers, the *60 Minutes* segment on the case was viewed and a lively discussion took place. Plans were made to step up the defense effort.

A petition drive demanding that the charges be dropped was launched, and a new fact sheet to update the case is being printed. Plans for a possible march and picket lines at recruiting stations were discussed.

Participants at the meeting were urged to attend the April 20th March on Washington, D.C. where the Scotts and other supporters of Lindsey's fight planned to petition to publicize the case.

Letters and telegrams demanding that the charges be dropped should be sent to: Commandant P.X. Kelley, United States Marine Corps, Department of the Navy and the Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20350.

Undocumented workers face new legal threat

BY HARRY RING

Sen. Alan Simpson, Republican of Wyoming, is introducing a new and even worse version of the notorious Simpson-Mazzoli anti-immigrant bill that died in Congress last fall.

The new version would virtually scrap the limited amnesty provision of the original bill.

Like the old bill, the current one would be used to intensify discrimination against Latinos by making it an offense for employers to "knowingly" hire undocumented immigrants.

The original bill, as a selling point, included the proviso that undocumented immigrants who could prove to the satisfaction of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (*la migra*) that they lived here continuously since before 1982 could be granted amnesty to remain.

The new bill would make application of the amnesty provision conditional on a determination that the number of undocumented immigrants in the country had been reduced.

This would be determined by a presidential commission. How the commission would figure it out was not explained.

No time limit would be set for the commission to make its determination.

Along with the other reactionary provisos of the measure, this would be a deadly new threat aimed at the rights of the undocumented and all other working people who "look" undocumented.

Joseph M. Treviño, executive director of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), said the organization would probably be "more adamant in opposition to Senator Simpson's new bill than to the old one."

Rep. Romano Mazzoli, Democrat of Kentucky and cosponsor of the original racist bill, reportedly has not yet decided if he will cosponsor the new version.

The new bill will stipulate higher fines for employers who hire undocumented workers, but looser record-keeping requirements will make it more difficult to establish that such hiring was done "knowingly."

Presumably the bill will include the same stiff fines and jail terms for people who give assistance to the undocumented.

The original Simpson-Mazzoli bill was buried in an election period because there was strong opposition in Latino communities. And there were many ranchers and other employers who were against even the token restraints it would have placed on their right to hire low-paid undocumented

workers.

Meanwhile *la migra* is not waiting for new legislation to intensify its drive against the undocumented.

Immigration Commissioner Alan Nelson told a House committee last March 20 that in 1984, *migra* agents had apprehended a record-breaking 1,138,566 people, 93 percent of these at the Mexican border.

He said he believed this year and next "will also be record years."

Nelson also disclosed cooperation Washington is getting from the Mexican government.

He said, "Continuing to work with officials of the Mexican and Canadian governments will be a priority. For example, as a result of cooperative efforts, the Mexican government has assigned special units at interior road checks. This has resulted in the apprehension of a number of Central American aliens before they could be smuggled across the U.S. border." He neglected to mention that many of those apprehended were undoubtedly seeking political asylum in this country.

Announcement of the new Simpson bill should be a signal of the need for the labor movement to lead a determined fight to defend the rights of the undocumented and stop the deportations.



Militant
At April 20 action in Washington, D.C., member of a Virginia NAACP chapter protests frame-up of Lindsey Scott.

SPECIAL OFFER TO MILITANT SUBSCRIBERS

"Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution"

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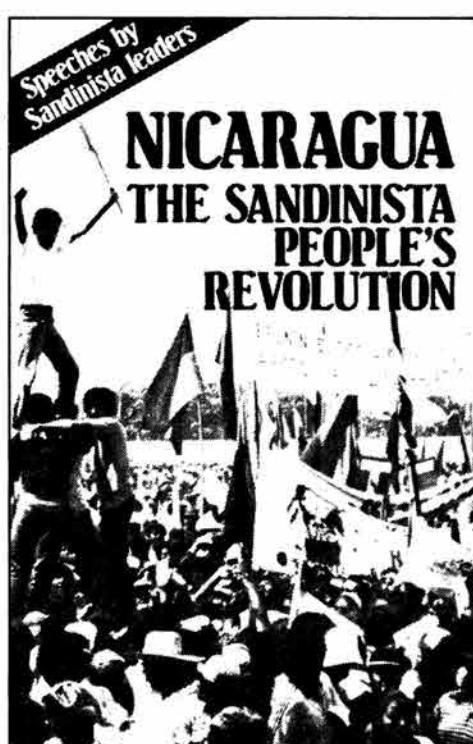
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Grenadian wins round against 'la migra'

BY PETER ANESTOS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An important victory for democratic rights and for the struggle against the imperialist occupation of Grenada was won April 22 when deportation proceedings against Dessima Williams, former Grenadian ambassador to the Organization of American States, were dropped by an immigration review judge of the U.S. Justice Department.

The victory was the culmination of a broadly supported campaign waged on Williams' behalf by the Grenada Foundation, Inc., an organization of supporters of the revolutionary government of Grenada, which was overthrown in October 1983.

All 20 members of the Congressional Black Caucus signed a letter asking that Williams be granted permanent residency status. Walter Fauntroy, D.C. delegate in Congress, testified on her behalf at the hearing. Numerous prominent Black women, including poet Maya Angelou and Effie Barry, wife of the mayor of Washington, D.C., spoke out in Williams' defense. Jacqueline Jackson, wife of Rev. Jesse Jackson, also attended the hearing.

Other important supporters included members of Congress Patricia Schroeder, Ted Weiss, and Don Edwards; Rev. John Collins, codirector, Clergy and Laity Concerned; Duane Shank, administrative director of SANE; Ruth Fitzpatrick, National Association of Religious Women; Rev. Phil Wheaton, EPICA; and Fritz Longchamp of the Washington Office on Haiti.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) had long been irritated by Williams' continually outspoken opposition to the U.S. invasion of Grenada and her defense of the gains of the Grenadian people made during the four and a half years of the People's Revolutionary Government, led by the slain Prime Minister Maurice

Bishop.

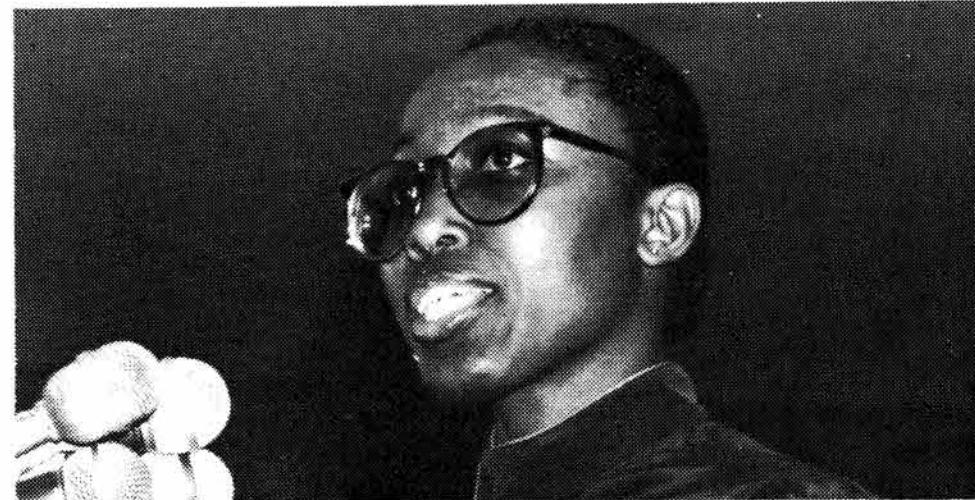
On Oct. 25, 1984, Williams was abducted by INS agents after delivering a speech at Howard University in Washington, D.C., and released on bail the next day. The government brought deportation proceedings against her, claiming that since she had been discredited as Grenadian ambassador to the OAS in October 1983, her return to the United States in December of that year constituted "unlawful entry."

Over 50 supporters crowded into the small hearing room in Washington as defense attorney Michael Maggio, with help from attorneys furnished by the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Conference of Black Lawyers, successfully challenged the validity of Williams' "discreditation" by Grenadian Governor-general Sir Paul Scoon in October 1983 following the U.S. invasion and occupation of Grenada.

In striking down the deportation effort, Immigration Judge Joan Arrowsmith explained that since Williams' discreditation was never formally recognized by the State Department until after January 1984, the government failed to show, "clear convincing and unequivocal evidence" that her diplomatic status had been terminated at the time of her entry into the United States in December 1983.

After the hearing Williams explained that if anyone should be charged with "illegal entry" it is the U.S. government for its brutal invasion of Grenada. She characterized the ruling as a victory for all immigrants facing deportation who are fleeing oppression around the world. She went on to recognize the important role that the broadly supported defense campaign had played in the victory.

The government said it will appeal the decision.



Militant/Lou Howort

Dessima Williams, former Grenadian ambassador to the Organization of American States.

Swedish socialist meets Minn. farmers, workers, students

BY RENA CACOULLOS

MINNEAPOLIS — Swedish socialist and union leader Göte Kildén recently spent three days in Minnesota with farmers, union leaders, workers, and students.

Kildén is chairman of the metal workers union at the truck division of Sweden's big Volvo plant. He's also national chairperson of the Swedish Socialist Party, sister organization to the U.S. Socialist Workers Party.

In western Minnesota, Kildén spent a day touring a 500-acre family farm that raises hogs. While there, he met with farmer activists and learned about U.S. agriculture and the crisis now facing working farmers.

The farmers were very interested to learn about Sweden's agriculture and its farmers, a subject about which Kildén is very knowledgeable.

Worldwide solidarity among working farmers, instead of trade restrictions and competition, is an idea being promoted by many farm leaders here. Some of the farmers also wanted to hear Kildén's views as a socialist worker.

In discussion with the president and committeemen of United Auto Workers Local 879, which organizes the Ford light-truck assembly plant in St. Paul, Kildén learned about some of the problems facing Ford workers.

For example, almost 50 workload grievances have accumulated since the local ratified its contract last November.

After the discussion, they agreed their local and Kildén's union local would exchange newspapers. And Kildén invited Tom Laney, Local 879 president, to visit Sweden.

Even though Volvo and Ford, like other auto giants, are competing for markets and profits, the discussion made clear that both companies like to treat union members the same way — demanding more work, more concessions.

Kildén also had an extensive discussion with a group of socialist textile workers

who are members of Local 168T of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union.

They described some of the progressive stands of the union. For example its opposition to U.S. support for the Nicaraguan counterrevolutionaries.

Kildén also addressed a University of Minnesota political science class of about 75 students. He urged them to participate in the April 20 Washington antiwar demonstration.

In western Minnesota, Kildén particularly appreciated a lengthy discussion with John Enestvedt, a farmer with a rich history of participation in farm struggles over the decades, and a founding member of the Socialist Workers Party.

Racist Alabama law struck down by U.S. Supreme Court

On April 16, the U.S. Supreme Court overthrew a racist provision in the Alabama State Constitution that denied voting rights to people convicted of crimes of "moral turpitude," such as vagrancy and adultery.

The legal victory resulted from a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union, which charged that the purpose and effect of the provision was to disenfranchise Blacks.

Even though the constitution was adopted by a lily-white state constitutional convention in 1901, when white supremacy was rampant, state lawyers tried to defend the provision on the grounds that it was also designed to disenfranchise poor whites.

For years, however, records show that more than ten times as many Blacks as whites were victims of the law, and at the time of the ruling the ratio was still 1.7 to 1.

Pledges to Socialist Publication Fund needed by end of April

BY PAT GROGAN

Supporters of the *Militant* have every reason to feel proud of a job well done. At the April 20 antiwar actions across the country, we sold thousands of copies of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and the *Young Socialist*. Hundreds of new readers subscribed to our publications. And we sold every copy we had of our just-published new book of speeches by Sandinista leaders. (See article on page 5 for a complete report of socialist literature distribution.)

For many of the tens of thousands of young people at the demonstration, it was their first antiwar action. And all our *Militant* salespeople and those who staffed the book tables agreed that this new generation of fighters against Washington's war in Central America is hungry to know the truth and to get literature on Nicaragua, South Africa, Grenada, Vietnam — on the struggles of working people in this country and throughout the world. Our socialist publications are an important part of arming antiwar fighters with the truth.

The turnout at the demonstrations and

the response to our socialist publications reaffirms our view that now is the time to step up our publishing projects.

That's why it's so crucial to make our fund drive. It is the money that you contribute that makes it possible for us to expand our news team in Nicaragua; send reporters to cover important developments in the class struggle in this country and in Africa, Canada, and Britain, as we have done, and to publish new books.

We are confident that we will make our fund-drive goal and we know that our supporters are organizing pledges to the drive.

But we have to step up the pace and the organization of the fund drive. That's why we are asking our readers in every city to contact us before the end of April with the amount pledged by supporters in your area. We would like to run a chart soon showing the amounts pledged from each city.

This is the next important step we have to take in the organization of the fund drive, to make sure that we'll make the goal we've set for ourselves, in full and on time.



Militant/Fred Murphy

Socialist literature table did brisk business at April 20 D.C. march.

In the March 22 issue of the *Militant*, we launched the Socialist Publication Fund with the goal of raising \$75,000 by June 15.

A major purpose of the fund is to help finance publication of the *Militant* and our Spanish-language sister publication *Perspectiva Mundial* and other socialist publication projects.

Checks should be made out to: Socialist Publication Fund, 14 Charles Lane, New York, NY 10014.

Enclosed is my contribution to the Socialist Publication Fund of \$ _____

I pledge a contribution of \$ _____ to the Socialist Publication Fund to be paid by _____.

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City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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Organization/Union _____

\$75,000

Collected:
\$7,725

	\$75,000
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D.C. marchers: 'No to U.S. dirty war'

Continued from front page

"National Student Anti-apartheid Protest Day" on April 24. This spirit was reflected in the April 18 news release issued by the April Actions Coalition in Washington, D.C.

"Our work does not stop on April 22nd. We will take our fight back to our local communities and reconvene regionally and nationally as needed, keenly aware of the importance of all our issues and of the power that exists in our unity."

The coalition set June 1 as the date for a meeting to discuss next steps.

The militant mood was also indicated by the thousands of signs with hand-lettered antiwar or anti-apartheid slogans that were carried by participants.

'Contras rape, kill'

"The contras are not my brothers," declared the placard carried by a young woman. A Black youth carried a sign reading, "Did George Washington rape children? The contras do." "I'll never register to be a contra — no draft" read a young man's placard. "Contras rape, kill. No contra aid," read another.

One person's sign blasted the hoopla over recent "reforms" in South Africa. "Now they can have sex. So what? What about their political rights?"

An older couple carried a poster declaring "Keep the money. Send Reagan to the contras."

A wide variety of chants was picked up by groups of marchers. One popular one was "Stop the bombing! Stop the war! U.S. out of El Salvador!"

The demonstrators were not taken in by the current maneuvering in congress over how to aid the contras. Their stand was expressed by one of the banners carried at the front of the march to the Capitol: "No aid to the contras in any form." Nor did the demonstrators have any doubt about Washington's deep complicity with apartheid.

Demonstrators came from as far away as

USWA: no aid for contras, cut ties to racist apartheid

On the eve of the massive April 20 march, the April Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice held a news conference in Washington, D.C. Among the speakers was John J. Sheehan, representing the United Steelworkers of America (USWA). Following are excerpts from his statement:

"This coming weekend, we will participate in a rally with a diverse group of individuals. These individuals will advocate positions on issues ranging from domestic to international. . . . The emphasis of the media coverage might well focus on the protest aspect of the rally."

"Yes. We will be here to protest, but we are not the ones who are negative. We are here because the current Reagan Administration is the most negative in the history of our country. It is the Reagan administration who has said no!"

"The Reagan administration has said no to the long-term unemployed."

"The Reagan administration has said no to the poor and old."

"The Reagan administration has said no to meaningful negotiations on nuclear weapons by rejecting the nuclear freeze and proposing the costly and destabilizing Star Wars program."

"The Reagan administration has said no to human rights in South Africa by its failure to act in a meaningful way by imposing economic sanctions against apartheidism."

"The Reagan administration has said no to meaningful negotiations for peace in Latin America by its continued support of the contra forces in their attempt to overthrow the Nicaraguan government."

"What we are saying by our protest on this spring weekend is that we oppose this Administration which says no."

"In its place, we reaffirm our position on the issues which bring us together. We can have peace, justice and jobs. We believe our government must be the advocate of our goals not only at home, but around the world."

Hawaii — with a group protesting the use of Hawaii by U.S. nuclear ships and submarines.

Hundreds of participants had visited Nicaragua. Many of those who had gone to Nicaragua as part of work brigades in the coffee, cotton, and sugar harvests marched, as a contingent, and were received with enthusiastic applause. Many wore badges bearing the names of Nicaraguans murdered by the U.S. government's contra killers.

One young woman wore streaks of red and black paint on her cheek — the colors of the Sandinista flag.

Rightist actions fizzles

Only a handful of ultralight-wingers turned up to counterdemonstrate April 20. They included racists led by Rev. Carl McIntire, who rallied at the South African embassy in support of the apartheid regime.

As demonstrators filed past the "Abortion is murder" banner that is frequently on display across the street from the White House, chants went up of "Choice, choice" and "Abortion is a woman's right."

About 300 people gathered in Lafayette Park the next day for a right-wing rally in support of the U.S. war against Nicaragua. The lead banner at the rally read, "Commie busters." Signs read, "No more Cubas," and "Support the freedom fighters." Most of the prowar demonstrators were counter-revolutionary Nicaraguans and Cubans.

During the massive April 20 protest march, many hundreds of unionists walked behind union banners in the labor contingent. Hundreds of others participated as individuals or in other contingents.

Union contingents

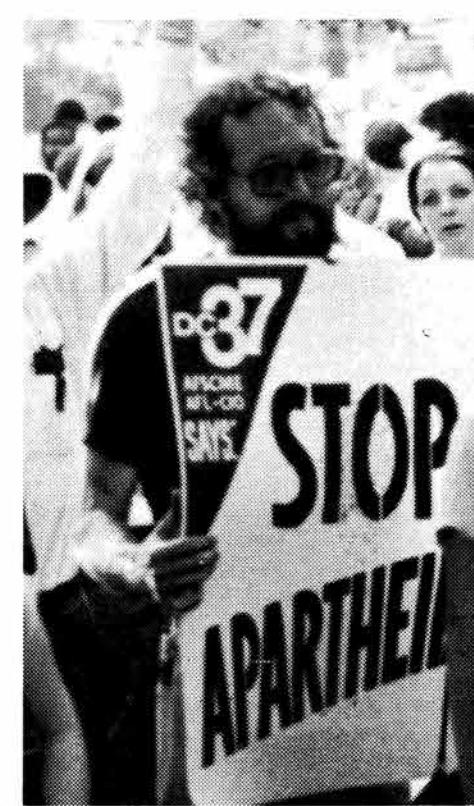
About 100 workers from the United Electrical Workers union marched.

Some fifty women, most of them Chinese, marched behind the banners of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Local 23-25.

A busload of Baltimore hospital workers participated — most of them marching with the 1199 banner.

Mary Moore, a staff member of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) Civil Rights Department, told the *Militant* that USWA members had come from Pittsburgh, Chicago, and Baltimore.

A sizable contingent marched behind the banners of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees



Militant/Fred Murphy

Demonstrators opposed any moves by Reagan, Congress to aid U.S.-organized contra killers. And they demanded immediate end to Washington's support for apartheid.



Militant/Lou Howort

(AFSCME). This included an all-Black contingent of hospital workers organized by AFSCME Local 420 in New York City.

Their chant — "Hey, hey, ho, ho, union-busting has got to go" — became a popular one among the unionists.

A small group of members of IAM Local 1784 from Koppers Industries in Baltimore marched together. A Black worker told the *Militant* that they had been attracted by the themes of "jobs, peace, and justice." He said they were planning to continue bringing up these issues under the good and welfare point at union meetings.

About 15 workers came on the bus sponsored by International Union of Electronic Workers Local 201 from the General Electric Plant in Lynn, Massachusetts.

A number of United Auto Workers (UAW) locals participated. UAW Local 438 at the Delco plant in Milwaukee sent a bus with seventeen people. A number of them, including six Black women, marched as a contingent.

District 65 UAW marched with signs proclaiming, "Down with apartheid," "Stop plant closings," and a large banner demanding "Stop Reagan's war in Central America."

The New York Headwear Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union carried signs demanding, "Divest from South Africa."

The banners of chapters of the Coalition of Labor Union Women and the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists were carried in the march.

Farm workers felt at home

Also in the labor contingents were groups of farm workers from Florida and Ohio organized by the Farm Labor Organizing Committee.

This contingent was led by FLOC president Baldemar Velásquez. He was interviewed by *Militant* reporter Cindy Jaquith.

FLOC is fighting Campbell Soup Co.

Continued on next page

Hundreds protest at South African embassy

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Despite a cop attempt to intimidate organizers into canceling the anti-apartheid picket line in front of the South African embassy here, 500 people demonstrated Friday, April 19.

Prior to the picket, cops smeared the action — the opening event in the April 19-22 Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice — alleging that a "communist organization" from outside Washington, D.C., was coming to provoke violence. The organizers refused to call off the action and people from as far away as California, Oklahoma, and Illinois joined Washington residents on the picket.

Protesters carried signs demanding that U.S. companies divest from South Africa, that the U.S. government stop supporting apartheid, and demanding freedom for Nelson Mandela, leader of the African National Congress (ANC) imprisoned for 25 years by the racist South African regime.

Other picketers carried signs identifying their union, including the International Association of Machinists (IAM); the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); and the Service Employees' International Union (SEIU).

As hundreds picketed the embassy, four people representing religious organizations went up to the embassy entrance and were arrested.

At a brief rally during the picket line, statements from those arrested were read.

The crowd also heard from Yvonne Delk of the United Church of Christ, who blasted the U.S. government's support for apartheid in South Africa and its funding of counterrevolutionary terrorists in Nicaragua.

Roger Wilkens, from the steering committee of the Free South Africa Movement, told the crowd about the cop attempt to pressure organizers into canceling the action. He explained that given the cops' violence-baiting of the picket line, organizers

decided to limit the civil disobedience to only four people, rather than the 100 originally planned.

Sylvia Hill of the South Africa Support Project also addressed the protesters. She told them that "each protest against apartheid is also a protest against U.S. intervention in Central America." She urged participants to come to the demonstration on April 20 and to join in the other activities organized by the April Action Coalition over the next three days.

Antiwar forces confront White House

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Over 1,000 people gathered at 7:30 in the morning April 22 at the Lincoln Memorial. The majority of the protesters came to show solidarity with the people who planned to carry out peaceful civil disobedience at the White House later that morning.

The demonstrators filled the steps of the memorial for a rally opened by Damu Smith, coordinator of the April Actions Coalition. Smith told the crowd, "We are here in the spirit of the students at Columbia, and at Berkeley [see front-page story]. We are here with all the people of the world struggling for peace."

William Sloane Coffin, pastor of the Riverside Church and longtime antiwar activist, told the crowd that "the road to peace is a long and stony road. But around the world there are people supporting us."

Anne Braden, longtime civil-rights activist, who along with Smith and Coffin led the action, pointed to the civil rights and anti-Vietnam War movements as examples of how a mass movement can change government policy. She explained to the young crowd that in actions like those organized April 19-22, "We are speaking to the people of the country. A lot of people oppose government policy, but they think they can't do anything. When we are here, we tell them you can do something."

Chanting "No contra aid," "Death to apartheid," "All aid is lethal aid," the march to the White House stepped off. While hundreds stood across the street chanting slogans against the U.S. war in Central America and government support for apartheid in South Africa, 225 demonstrators were arrested at the White House entrance.

— A.G.

Continued from preceding page

now, he said, noting that Campbell also has investments in South Africa.

He said the desire of big companies to make Central America "safe for profits" is behind the war the U.S. government is waging there.

Velásquez visited Nicaragua along with other FLOC members. They met with Nicaraguan farm workers. He thinks it is important for others to go there as "they will be touched in a way they can't be" by reading about it. He said he felt at home with the Nicaraguan farm workers. "The people look the same and talk the same."

Anthony Luddy, secretary-treasurer of the United Food and Commercial Workers, commented on the importance of labor's participation in a speech he gave to the rally that preceded the march to the capitol.

"Our goals are peace, jobs, and justice. No one will give them to us on a silver platter," he declared, "not the Democratic Party, not Congress, and certainly not Ronald Reagan."

"We have to organize," he continued. "We learned that the hard way. We used to rely on the National Labor Relations Board and politicians to help us organize. But it was only when we went to the people that we began to grow. I'm talking about power, the power to change things, to take power away from those who have it."

"We need the unions here. We have to have them."

Thousands of high school and college students were among the most spirited and activist-minded marchers.

Many of them were brought to Washington by recently formed organizations which carried out antiwar or anti-apartheid activities before the march.

Campus actions

They included a contingent of students from North Newton High School, organized by the Faculty-Student Committee Against Nuclear War; about 150 students from Colgate University, where a student-faculty committee is urging the university board to divest itself of investments in South Africa; and 15 students from the University of Bowling Green, sponsored by Social Justice, a campus committee which had just staged a peace week of activities around Hiroshima and Nicaragua.

More than twenty Black students and teachers from West Philadelphia High School, organized by a group called Rites of Passage, marched together. One carried a sign demanding "Unemployment compensation for first time job seekers." The group was videotaping the demonstration and plans to show it to as many students as possible.

About 100 protesters were brought by Virginia State University's Student Teacher Alliance Against Racism. On April 19, they held a rally on campus that drew one third of the student body of 3,000. They carried a sign declaring, "No intervention in Central America, no aid to the contras."

Students for Democratic Alternatives at Stockton College in New Jersey brought

Continued on Page 7



Militant/Arthur Hughes

Hundreds of workers marched in union contingents.

Sandinista book, 'Militant' sell well

BY TOM LEONARD

Cumulative sales of socialist literature at April 20 antiwar demonstrations around the country were a resounding success. More than 3,000 single copies of the *Militant* were sold, over 200 *Perspectiva Mundials* and hundreds of copies of the *Young Socialist*.

Demonstrators also bought 222 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

In addition, sales teams around the country sold out their stock of more than 550 copies of the just-published book *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution*. Cumulative sales at literature tables totaled over \$5,000, with books and pamphlets on Central America and the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa being the top sellers.

The largest sales were at the Washington, D.C., action. More than 200 members, supporters, and friends of the Socialist Workers Party and Young Socialist Alliance from the East and Midwest distributed literature there.

They sold 1,959 *Militants*, 169 *Perspectiva Mundials*, and 155 *Young Socialists*. There were also 134 *Militant* and 10 *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions sold.

Sold out were over 300 copies of the new *Nicaragua* book, and the combined sales at nine literature tables were excellent. The main table had a large banner commemorating Maurice Bishop and the Grenadian revolution and was surrounded by demonstrators for hours before the march stepped off. Over \$4,000 in socialist literature was sold at this table alone, much of it in the Spanish language.

One of the first things demonstrators saw when they got off buses in Washington, D.C., was a smaller literature table that was set up at 9 a.m. and sold over \$150 worth of books, buttons, and T-shirts. Early sales were so brisk that they sold out

their copies of the new *Nicaragua* book before they could finish making a sign announcing it was available.

Sales of the new book by individuals were also fruitful and one salesperson sold 31 copies while circulating through the crowds of demonstrators.

There were also good sales and political discussions on buses to the D.C. demonstration. These buses came from as far away as Miami, Kansas City, and Minneapolis-St. Paul. There were six buses from Pittsburgh — three furnished by the United Steelworkers — that included unionists and students from several South American countries, all of whom were interested in having political discussions. They also bought over 60 *Militants*.

At the San Francisco march over 50 SWP and YSA members and supporters from the Bay Area and Utah also found an enthusiastic response to sales. These included sales on the special "Harriet Tubman" train that carried demonstrators from San Jose to San Francisco. One salesperson, for example, sold 15 copies of *Nicaragua: The Sandinista People's Revolution* before the train arrived at the demonstration.

Single copy sales in San Francisco totaled 625 including 545 *Militants*, 35 *Perspectiva Mundials* and 45 *Young Socialists*. Demonstrators also got 29 new subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

At least three literature tables were very busy and sold nearly \$800 worth of

socialist books and pamphlets, including selling out 100 copies of the *Nicaragua* book.

In Los Angeles, sales teams from Phoenix, San Diego, and Los Angeles sold a combined total of 344 *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials*, 17 *Young Socialists* and 26 *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* subscriptions.

Excellent sales at the literature table brought in more than \$600, and 49 copies of the *Nicaragua* book were sold.

Combined sales at the Seattle, Denver, and Houston demonstrations totaled 309 *Militants* and *Perspectiva Mundials*, and 44 subscriptions to the two socialist publications. In addition they report sales of 17 *Young Socialists*.

One of the inspiring things felt by sales teams at all the April 20 demonstrations was the many sided political interests and consciousness of the demonstrators, especially the youth who were there in large numbers.

Coming at the half-way point of the 10-week campaign to sell 30,000 single copies and over 2,000 subscriptions to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, April 20 confirmed how important these sales are and gave a big boost to the campaign. They demonstrated that a lot of trade unionists, farmers, Blacks, Latinos, women, and youth are hungry for new facts and fresh political analysis of the U.S. government's war at home and abroad. This is what the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* regularly provide.

Open house draws hundreds

BY ELLEN HAYWOOD
AND HARRY RING

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Four hundred of the participants in the antiwar march here packed into a hotel banquet room for a post-demonstration reception sponsored by the Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. The enthusiasm was electric.

The gathering heard remarks by Göte Kildén, the Swedish union and socialist leader now on a U.S. tour, and Andrea González, Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of New York.

Kildén came to the demonstration from New York on an International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union bus.

He said the success of the day's demonstration would have an important political impact in Europe, where there is already significant opposition to the U.S. war in Central America. This is particularly true among Swedish workers, whose unions are actively involved in the Central American solidarity movement.

Kildén's call for deepening international workers' solidarity against imperialist aggression, and capitalism itself, won resounding applause.

In brief, hard-hitting remarks, Andrea

González pointed to the unbroken U.S. government record of being on the wrong side of every progressive struggle at home and abroad. That consistent reactionary record, she explained, stems from the fact that it is a government that works to advance the interests of the ruling rich. She spoke to the need for working people to struggle for a workers and farmers government to resolve this.

After the program, we spoke to some of those attending.

One particularly enthusiastic visitor was Ricky Mulchansingh. Originally from Trinidad, he works in New York.

"This is my first demonstration," he said, "and I never realized there were so many other young people involved."

"I hate injustice everywhere," he added. "I despise capitalism and what it does to people. And this was the best way of doing something about it."

Barry Hunter and Rick Quickley are supporters of the Baltimore YSA. Hunter first met the YSA at an anti-apartheid demonstration. "I already knew about South Africa," he said. "But there were a lot of other things this government's doing I didn't really know about. Like supporting the

Continued on Page 17



National Black Independent Political Party supported April Actions as part of building a fighting, independent Black organization.

National day of anti-intervention protests

7,000 in L.A.: 'No contra aid'

BY NELSON BLACKSTOCK

LOS ANGELES — The streets of downtown Los Angeles rang with chants condemning the U.S. war in Central America and apartheid in South Africa as 7,000 marched to a rally on the steps of City Hall.

Called by a coalition of 150 area groups, endorsers of the protest ranged from unions to civil rights, antinuclear, religious and political organizations, Central American refugees, and others.

They began assembling before noon. The labor contingent gathered at the headquarters of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union near the city's garment district. Close by the Free South Africa contingent along with many others came together.

The march stepped off before noon led by the El Salvadoran contingent, followed by the Nicaraguan contingent and other Central American refugee contingents which stretched for blocks.

"Free political prisoners — Where are the disappeared?" said a banner carried by the El Salvadoran contingent.

"No contra aid!" the marchers shouted.

"Nicaragua wants peace," were the words inscribed on many signs carried by the Nicaragua contingent.

This was the biggest demonstration Los Angeles has seen that focused on opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America. Moreover, it revealed a broadening of the scope of forces drawn into action.

"Hey, hey! No, no! Apartheid's got to go!" was the chant that arose from the Free South Africa contingent, one of the largest. Participants included college students, church people, National Black Independent.

dent Political Party members, and Trans-Africa activists.

"Free Mandela! Jail Botha!" they shouted. "Labor says: 'End Apartheid,'" proclaimed signs carried both by members of this contingent and the labor contingent that followed.

Several times larger than labor contingents in past local actions, delegations carried banners from the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union, American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, and California State Employees Association. Many were members of the United Auto Workers union (UAW) who came on their own bus, including strikers from Superior Industries. As rally speaker Eric Mann, a worker at the General Motors plant in Van Nuys, explained, "Superior workers, many of them Central American refugees making rock-bottom wages, are fighting brazen union-busting tactics after voting in the UAW in an NLRB election."

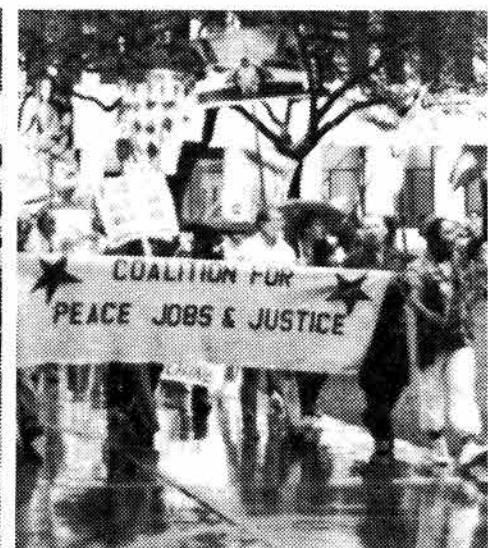
A delegation of oil workers had gathered that morning at the headquarters of Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers (OCAW) Local 1-547 to board a union-sponsored bus to the demonstration.

Others came from the United Electrical Workers Union, the Service Employees International Union, the Carpenters union, the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's union, the International Association of Machinists, and United Teachers of Los Angeles.

Marchers displayed banners identifying
Continued on Page 19



Militant/Ed Berger



Militant/Dick McBride

Outpouring in Los Angeles (left), Houston showed breadth of April Actions.

4,000 march in Seattle streets

BY LISA HICKLER

SEATTLE — The largest antiwar protest in several years was held in Seattle April 20. Four thousand-strong, the demonstration marched through the streets of downtown Seattle chanting, "Hands off Nicaragua — stop contra aid!" "Hey South Africa, isn't it clear? Seattle doesn't want your consulate here!" and "Hey, hey, Uncle Sam, we remember Vietnam."

The trade union contingent led off the march. Fifteen red and white picket signs were held high by striking workers from Alaska Airlines, members of the International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 2202. Other union banners came from the Pacific Northwest Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU), Service Employees' International Union (SEIU) Local 6, International Union of Electronic Workers (IUE) Local 1002, United Food and Commercial Workers Union (UFCW) locals 1105 and 1001, and the Seattle American Postal Workers Union. The march was en-

dored by over 20 union locals and by the King County Labor Council.

Banners held by marchers from all over Washington and from Oregon included, "Chileans for Democracy," "Evergreen Students for Humane Foreign Policy," "Mothers Against the Draft," "Skagit Citizens for Nuclear Disarmament," "University Unitarian Church," and "Veterans Against Intervention."

The first speaker at the rally site was Maria del Socorro [Yolanda] Rodriguez Lagos, a Nicaraguan trade union leader and president of FOMCA (Federation of Central American Teachers Organization).

Others speakers included Nita Brueggeman, manager of the Pacific Northwest Board of ACTWU, who was introduced by Linda Layton, president of IAM Lodge 2202; Gerald Lenoir, Seattle Coalition Against Apartheid; Juana Kyota, a Puluan-American activist supporting the struggle for a nuclear-free and independent Pacific; and others.

Houston: no to war, apartheid

BY STEVE WARSHELL

HOUSTON — As thunderstorms drenched the Southeast Texas area with three inches of rain, more than 800 youthful and spirited demonstrators marched through downtown on April 20. In spite of the downpour, marchers came from across Texas and Louisiana.

Numerous solidarity and peace organizations were present, as well as refugee groups, anti-apartheid committees, and re-

ligious and community organizations. Members of the United Transportation Union; United Auto Workers Local 216 from General Motors in Arlington, Texas; members of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Local 4227; and other unionists participated in the march and rally.

The march ended at City Hall Park with a rally. Speakers included Gustavo Acosta, Southwest U.S. representative of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador; Kathy Collmer, spokesperson for the Safe Harbor Alliance for a Nuclear-free Gulf Coast; Margarita, a Salvadoran refugee; Willie Faye Daniels, leader of the Dallas Black community organization Common Ground and a participant in the recent coffee harvest in Nicaragua; Ada Edwards, a leader of the Houston Free South Africa Movement; and Jean Butterfield, a representative of the pro-Palestinian November 29 Committee. The rally was chaired by Gonzalo Santos, regional coordinator of the Committee in Solidarity With the People of El Salvador (CISPES), and Laura Sanchez, a leader of the San Antonio-based refugee-assistance organization, Proyecto Hospitalidad.

Convicted sanctuary activist Jack Elder sent a taped message of solidarity to the rally, but the torrential rains prevented rally organizers from playing it to the crowd.

On the Friday night leading up to the April 20 demonstration, 125 people, most of them Salvadoran refugees, participated in a candlelight prayer vigil at the consulate of El Salvador in Houston. The protesters stayed several hours in front of the consulate building, in spite of attempts by border patrol and immigration police to photograph them and engage in other forms of harassment. The vigil was one of a series of activities that led up to the April 20 protest.

Unionists join Denver rally

BY DAVID MARTIN

DENVER — More than 1,200 people took to the streets here April 20 in what was the largest demonstration yet in the Rocky Mountain region against U.S. intervention in Central America.

Although the theme was Central America, brief speeches were made by representatives of the anti-apartheid movement, the anti-nuclear weapons movement, and the Rainbow Coalition.

A featured speaker at the rally was Richard Bensinger, manager of the Rocky Mountain District Joint Board of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union (ACTWU). Bensinger recently returned from Guatemala, where he met with striking Coca Cola workers. Asking all the trade unionists to stand and raise their

hands, Bensinger proudly pointed out that there were some 200 unionists at the rally, and said there was a need to cement links between the trade union movement and the growing anti-intervention movement.

Rita Montero, Witness for Peace regional coordinator, spoke on the situation in Nicaragua, and Sally Brown from the Episcopal Peace Fellowship reported on a recent fact-finding trip to El Salvador.

The demonstration came on the heels of a recent campaign at the University of Colorado in Boulder directed against CIA recruiters on campus. More than 400 individuals have been arrested in civil-disobedience activities while attempting to make citizens arrests of the CIA officials. Boulder County officials have dropped all charges against those arrested.

Evaluation of Cuba's housing law in 'IP'

Cuba's National Assembly adopted a new housing law in December after extensive discussion among the Cuban people. Under this new law Cubans who don't already own their homes will be granted title to the house or apartment where they are living. Their monthly rent will be credited as payment on their home until it is paid for. The new measures also allow residents, for the first time in more than two decades, to rent rooms in their home to tenants.

The May 13 *Intercontinental Press* will carry an article on the housing situation in Cuba since the 1959 revolution and the place of the new law in it.

Some capitalist press reports have contended that the new law is a return to capitalist measures in Cuba. The *IP* article describes the Cuban leaders' response to this charge, and what they hope the law will accomplish.

The current (April 29) issue of *IP* carries an article reviewing recent measures by the Nicaraguan government to strengthen its military defense. Also included is an exclusive interview with Burkina's President Thomas Sankara.

Intercontinental Press is a biweekly that carries more articles, documents, and special features on world politics — from Europe to Oceania and from the Middle East to Central America — than we have room for in the *Militant*. Subscribe now.

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Unionists lead demonstration of 50,000 in San Francisco

BY MATILDE ZIMMERMANN

SAN FRANCISCO — In the largest antiwar demonstration here in more than a decade, an estimated 50,000 people marched through the streets of San Francisco April 20.

As demonstrators began to gather about 9:30 a.m., it was clear that the day was going to be a real outpouring of support for the Spring Mobilization demands of no U.S. intervention in Central America, for a nuclear freeze, for jobs and justice, and against U.S. complicity with apartheid.

Solidarity and antinuclear groups from towns and counties from all over northern California arrived with their banners. Trade unionists in jackets and hats lined up to fill an entire side street. And for two hours there was a constant stream of mostly young demonstrators pouring out of the BART subway station, many of them students from University of California at Berkeley wearing anti-apartheid shirts or buttons. There was a contingent of 100 farm workers waving United Farm Workers Union flags, a Raza contingent of Chicanos and Latinos from the South Bay that numbered several hundred, a float carrying Nicaraguan musicians and dancers, and even a huge tractor driven by a farmer from Los Baños, California.

Over 1,500 people filled the "Harriet Tubman Special" train that came from the South Bay to the San Francisco demonstration. The South Bay Coalition and the train were spearheaded by the Santa Clara Labor Council together with the San Mateo Central Council.

A delegation was there from the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) chapter in Santa Cruz that had its charter revoked for its opposition to U.S. intervention in Central America. The chapter's commander, Richard Anderson, told this reporter that they have received applications for membership from combat veterans from all over the country, and that the expelled Santa Cruz group is the fastest-growing VFW post in the nation.

The march was only a mile long, but the last contingent did not reach the Civic Center rally site until an hour after the speeches had started.

The rally was opened by Jack Henning, head of the California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO. Pointing with pride to organized labor's strong role in the Spring Mobilization, Henning said, "We want the U.S. out of Latin America, and precisely, we want the U.S. out of Nicaragua, where our government is using assassins and terrorists against the population. Organized labor," Henning went on, "is demanding an end to the blood alliance with that murder machine that calls itself the government of South Africa."

Henning introduced International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU) president, James Herman, who reported that the ILWU had adjourned its convention two days earlier so that the 400-500 delegates could "go over and join hands with the students at Berkeley against the demented government of South Africa," and again adjourned all day Saturday for the demonstration.

The labor contingent marched behind an ILWU banner reading "An injury to one is an injury to all" that stretched across most of the six lanes of Market Street. Prominent behind it were the banners of every Central Labor Council from Sacramento to Santa Cruz, all of which had voted to endorse the march.

In addition to sizable contingents from unions like the ILWU and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) that have played a leading role in the coalition from the outset, there were contingents from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT); United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW); Painters Union; the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union (OCAW); Communication Workers of America (CWA); United Transportation Union (UTU); National Association of Let-

ter Carriers (NALC); Carpenters Union; International Association of Machinists (IAM); American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME); and others.

A contingent of members of the United Mine Workers (UMW) and other unionists from Utah got a big response. The San Francisco building trades unions had taken on the job the night before of building the rally stage.

Dolores Huerta, vice-president of the UFW, accused President Reagan of "trying to de-unionize America," and said, "The Farm Workers union is a double target, because we are farm workers and because we are Brown and Black." She called for a return to the boycotts and marches that had built the union and said, "The job of farm workers and farmers should be, not to send bullets, but to send food."

A theme of many of the rally speeches was support to the ongoing South Africa protests at U.C. Berkeley. Student leader Pedro Noguera, Berkeley Mayor Gus Newport, and U.S. Congressman Ron Dellums spoke about the demonstration of thousands of students and supporters during the week leading up to the April 20 demonstration. In the crowd were many hundreds of participants in the Berkeley action, as well as students from a dozen other



Militant/Larry Lukeart

Berkeley students have strong union backing in fighting University of California investments in South Africa. Here they carry 'Biko lives' banner in massive San Francisco march. Steve Biko was martyred leader of South African freedom struggle.

schools who have started or are now planning similar protests. There were many young people who had never been to a peace demonstration before — a new generation of antiwar fighters for whom the Vietnam-era protests are something they learn about in history class.

Many of these young people and others were anxious to read what the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial* had to say, especially about Nicaragua. Members and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party and Young

Socialist Alliance sold over 600 copies of the *Militant*, *Perspectiva Mundial*, and *Young Socialist*, as well as 30 subscriptions to the *Militant*. One hundred copies of the new Pathfinder book of Sandinista speeches were air-freighted to San Francisco for the demonstration, and were sold out halfway through the rally. One supporter of the SWP from San José, Tom Tomasko, sold 15 copies of the book to fellow demonstrators on the one-hour train ride from the South Bay to San Francisco.

D.C. action challenges U.S. dirty war

Continued from Page 5

100 students. On April 19, it held a teach-in on campus.

The Columbia University Coalition for a Free South Africa, which has organized the divestment struggle there, sent a delegation.

Black party marches

Despite its modest size, the contingent of the National Black Independent Political Party was significant. The NBIPP fights to mobilize the Black community for an uncompromising struggle against racist oppression. The NBIPP believes that this course must be advanced by Black people building their own independent fighting organization, in opposition to the racist, capitalist Republican and Democratic parties.

Four UAW members from the Leeds General Motors plant in Kansas City marched with this contingent.

Contingents of farmers took part. One contingent's banner read, "Minnesotans demand parity." And slogans like "Grain silos, not missile silos" and "Feed the world, not the contras" were a common sight.

A contingent of the Union of Democratic Filipinos called for an end to U.S. backing of the Marcos dictatorship. Young Koreans United carried a placard that demanded, "Troops and nukes out of South Korea."

Some groups focused on opposition to the U.S. arms buildup and advocacy of a U.S.-Soviet nuclear freeze. Protests against the MX missile and the swelling war budget, and banners pointing to the danger of nuclear war, were prominent.

Left organizations

A large Communist Party contingent carried banners denouncing Washington's lies about the Soviet Union and Cuba.

The Democratic Socialists of America participated under signs that stressed the themes of "jobs, peace, and justice."

A Socialist Workers Party banner declared, "No U.S. support to racist South African regime. Black majority rule now." A banner carried in this contingent by the Young Socialist Alliance demanded, "No U.S. war in Central America and the Caribbean. Jobs not bombs. Farms not arms."

In addition, several dozen marched in a contingent of Veterans of the Abraham

Lincoln Brigade. These were U.S. citizens who fought against Franco's fascist forces in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-39.

Contingents of the Workers World Party and the Peoples Antiwar Mobilization; supporters of the *Guardian* newspaper, and other left groups also marched.

Rallies were organized in three phases at the Saturday protest. The day opened with a Festival of Resistance, held around six stages — each devoted to one of the themes of the demonstration.

Then as contingents gathered for the march, a second rally was held.

Finally, at the conclusion of the march, a final rally was held on the steps of the Capitol.

Festival of Resistance

The Festival of Resistance, with its varying balance of political talks and cultural performances, was quite successful. Thousands gathered around the various stages to hear speakers from various struggles, poets, musicians, and singers.

The anti-apartheid stage featured Anthony Glover, a leader of the movement seeking to make Columbia University divest itself of investments in South Africa. A South African woman student, against whom Columbia is bringing charges for her role in the protests, also spoke.

At the anti-intervention stage, a statement was read from the National Patriotic Committee of Costa Rica protesting use of Costa Rican territory as a base of military and propaganda attacks on the Nicaraguan revolution.

At one point, the chairperson of this rally asked how many people had been to Nicaragua. Scores raised their hands. The chair then asked how many knew someone who had been to Nicaragua. Almost everyone raised a hand.

Father Gerard Jean-Juste of the Miami Haitian Refugee Center was a speaker at this stage.

He was part of a contingent of about 35 Haitians that joined the march to the Capitol.

At the "freeze and reverse the arms race" stage, Brian Hatts, an activist in the fight to keep the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant shut down, was a featured speaker.

Dave Dellinger, a radical pacifist and antiwar activist for many decades, chaired the pre-march rally. He announced that he had accepted an invitation to Vietnam to

participate in the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the victory over the U.S. invasion and occupation.

Kitty Krupat, editor of the UAW District 65 newspaper, and Rev. William Sloane Coffin were among the speakers at this rally.

After the march — which took over an hour to pass any one point — arrived at the Capitol, the final group of speakers addressed the gathering.

Jackson's strategy

The keynote speaker at this rally was Rev. Jesse Jackson. Jackson was enthusiastically applauded at many points, especially when he denounced U.S. aid to the contras as "madness," identified himself with student protests against apartheid, and voiced support for the struggles of farmers.

Jackson focused on the political strategy he advocates for opponents of U.S. policies. "Today I see a rainbow coalition," he told the demonstrators. "The rainbow campaign of 1984 will become the rainbow organization of 1985 and 1986 and 1987 and 1988. We'll translate protest into politics, increase voter registration, and organize enough votes in 1986 to defeat the MX missile."

Jackson wants to turn the movement into "politics." In his view, this means shifting from emphasis on independent mass actions opposing the prowar, racist, anti-worker policies of both parties, toward a strategy which centers on electoral politics in the Democratic Party.

This would undermine the militancy and independence of the antiwar, anti-apartheid movement that is taking shape. It would lead to subordinating this movement to the imperialist Democratic Party which, like the Republican Party, defends the interests of the ruling families, including their war against the Nicaraguan people and their support to the apartheid regime in South Africa.

Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) spoke too. He identified himself with the "Rainbow Coalition" Democratic Party strategy.

Conyers also blasted FBI harassment of people who have visited Nicaragua and promised to push ahead with a congressional investigation of this.

"We need more people to go to Nicaragua," he declared, "so they can come back

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FSLN-Miskito talks

Continued from front page

"the government and MISURASATA delegations have not reached definitive agreements on the fundamental questions for a just solution to the present conflict. As a result, a pacification in the region between the armed forces of the government and of MISURASATA has not been achieved. For that reason, the two sides will continue discussing those matters (land, autonomy, natural resources, total ceasefire in the region, etc.) in future rounds." The next round of negotiations is scheduled to take place in Bogotá, Colombia, May 25-26.

The breakthrough in the negotiations came on the eve of a scheduled vote in the U.S. Congress on \$14 million in aid to the CIA-financed counterrevolutionaries. In recent weeks, President Reagan has been demanding that the Sandinistas negotiate with the contras in an effort to prettify the mercenaries' role and cover up his own refusal to negotiate with the Nicaraguan government.

An unsigned column on the editorial page of the April 23 issue of the FSLN daily *Barricada* explained the difference between the talks with MISURASATA, on the one hand, and talks with the U.S.-backed mercenaries on the other.

The article sharply distinguished be-

tween those groups whose objective is to overthrow the revolutionary government and "the MISURASATA organization, which, in raising demands of a sector of the ethnic groups of the Atlantic Coast, saw itself dragged into the dynamic of a counterrevolutionary war in a complex situation fed and manipulated by foreign aggression . . .

"It is precisely the revolution's conviction that MISURASATA is an organization that is not organically linked to the imperialist plans of aggression . . . that makes it possible to try to advance in the solution of the conflict by way of dialogue," the article continued.

"Otherwise there wouldn't be the slightest possibility of proposing conversations and later peace agreements, as in the case of the mercenary groups, which are instruments directly in the service of U.S. military power.

"The negotiations with MISURASATA, therefore, expressed a principled position of the revolution: undertake all efforts that might be necessary to promote peace among the Nicaraguans, and the framework of a great national offensive to defeat the imperialist policy of aggression and its local instruments."



Barricada International



Barricada

Joint communiqué signed by Brooklyn MISURASATA, which took up arms against Sandinista revolution several years ago, and Luis Carrión, of FSLN, marks blow to U.S. war.

Honduras stages provocation

BY JOSÉ G. PÉREZ

MANAGUA, Nicaragua — Tension between Nicaragua and Honduras has escalated sharply due to a major Honduran provocation against the Nicaraguan government.

On April 18, three Honduran war planes violated Nicaraguan airspace and attacked two Nicaraguan coast guard patrols, sinking one of the boats. One Nicaraguan sailor was killed, four were wounded, and one more is missing and presumed dead.

The unprovoked attack took place on the Atlantic Coast, near Edinburgh Reef, 10 miles southeast from Cabo Gracias a Dios and clearly within Nicaraguan waters and airspace. The coast guard boats had gone to the area following the sighting of a pirate boat that fled to Honduran waters as Nicaraguan vessels approached.

In a strongly worded protest to the Honduran government, Nicaraguan foreign minister Miguel D'Escoto denounced the attack as a "criminal action." He expressed Nicaragua's "alarm" over the treacherous raid, which, he said, "appeared to correspond to the objective of creating artificial conflicts with Nicaragua to get congressional support for Reagan, for the purpose of continuing his brutal and immoral war of aggression against Nicaragua."

D'Escoto warned that such actions could only lead to "closing the door on dialogue and negotiation in order to implant solutions by force, which would inevitably generate a regional war of unforeseeable consequences."

Shortly after sending this note, D'Escoto sent Honduras a second note revealing that

hundreds of CIA-trained counterrevolutionaries, dressed in uniforms like those of the Sandinista militia, had been massed on the border with Nicaragua in the Honduran province of El Paraíso. D'Escoto charged that the *contras* were planning to stage a mock "Sandinista" attack against Honduras to provide a pretext for a direct U.S. invasion of Nicaragua.

The situation is considered especially grave because the United States already has a fully-prepared task force in the area, practicing an invasion.

In the largest maneuvers so far of the permanent U.S. war exercises in Honduras, U.S. soldiers were scheduled to stage an amphibious landing in Puerto Castillo on April 23.

Some 7,000 troops and nine warships, including destroyers and guided-missile frigates, were to take part.

This practice invasion forms part of the U.S. exercises called Universal Trek, which are being carried out together with the Big Pine III operations. Big Pine III includes repelling a supposed Nicaraguan armored invasion of Honduras, complete with Soviet tanks to play the part of Nicaragua. The tanks were provided by the government of Israel, which captured them from Egypt.

Since beginning constant war maneuvers in Honduras three years ago, U.S. forces have built several large military airports, radar installations, and ports for U.S. warships there. There are hundreds of troops permanently stationed in the country, and thousands more come and go as one set of exercises follows another.

D.C. action challenges U.S. dirty war

Continued from Page 7

and expose the lies the Reagan administration is telling."

Guadalupe González greeted the rally in the name of the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front and the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FMLN-FDR) of El Salvador.

Neo Mnumzana, a representative of the African National Congress mission to the United Nations, declared, "I speak for the people of South Africa, the only country in the world where racism has the force of law. I speak also for the people of Nicaragua fighting the contras and for the people of El Salvador fighting fascism. I speak for everyone who is seeking to end the exploitation of man by man."

Other speakers included Abdeen Jabara of the Arab-American Antidiscrimination Committee; a representative of Dessima Williams, former ambassador to the Organization of American States for the revolutionary Grenadian government of

Maurice Bishop, who denounced the 1983 U.S. invasion and occupation of the island; Jane Gruenebaum of the Nuclear Freeze Campaign; gay-rights activist Andy Humm; and Vietnam veteran and author Ron Kovic.

The mood of the demonstration was summed up by Sergio Sarmiento, who represented the National Union of Nicaraguan Students. When he announced he was bringing "affectionate and appreciative greetings from the heroic people of Nicaragua," he was greeted with wild applause.

"The people of the United States and the Nicaraguan people are not enemies. The bases for friendship and solid collaboration exist. We believe that the example that Nicaragua represents for oppressed people all over the world merits all the support and solidarity you can give. We, the people of Nicaragua, will do all that must be done in defense of our country."

"Together with the people of the United States we will say, 'No pasarán!'"

Students fight apartheid

Continued from front page

On that day the campus was booming with activities. Pickets were thrown up at campus entrances. Roving teams of demonstrators marched throughout the campus into lecture halls, encouraging the students to participate in the boycott. At the campus entrances, truck drivers organized by the Teamsters refused to cross the student picket line. The American Federation of Teachers and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees locals on campus endorsed the student protest and encouraged their members to support the students.

A noontime protest rally drew another 3,000 participants. This time the police were nowhere to be seen. Protesters were carrying signs saying, "Apartheid is a crime, protest is not," "Divest, not arrest," and "Boycott classes, divest." Contingents of students from various classes fed into the rally site — contingents such as the Baroque musicians against apartheid, city planners against apartheid, Black law students against apartheid, and many others.

The rally was opened by reading a telegram from Lebanon, solidarizing with the Berkeley students.

Dick Groulx, executive secretary of the Alameda Central Labor Council, addressed the students. The Alameda Central Labor Council and the Santa Clara Labor Council had just voted to endorse the student sit-in. Groulx and 15 other unionists had themselves been arrested a week earlier at a labor picket line at the South African Airways office in San Francisco. "I bring you greetings from 60,000 AFL-CIO members. I applaud you, and I am very proud of you." Groulx then continued, "I want to express to you that the labor movement

views you as our natural ally." At that point in his speech he got a standing ovation from the crowd.

Lorenzo Carlisle, a central leader of the Bay Area Free South Africa Movement, explained the central role the labor movement has played in these protests. "The backbone of the movement is the longshoremen, who struck for 10 days in San Francisco, refusing to unload South African cargo. They put their jobs on the line. As a result they have helped raise people's consciousness," he said.

A contingent of hospital workers with union banners from the striking Shoreline Hospital also participated in the protest.

The following day the students received a tremendous boost. Close to 400 members of the International Longshoremen's and Warehousemen's Union joined the students for another noontime rally that was attended by several thousand. Jimmy Herman, the ILWU international president, was the featured speaker. The Longshoremen had adjourned their national convention to attend the anti-apartheid protest. When they marched out with their banners and picket signs, they were sent out with chants of "Workers, students united, will never be defeated." Others from the Molders union, the Retail Clerks, Service Employees International Union, and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees members were present.

Al Lanon, cochair for the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice and president of ILWU Local 6, urged everyone to participate in the April 20 demonstrations. The students arrested by the police led the anti-apartheid contingent at the march the following Saturday.

Columbia divestment fight continues

BY CAPPY KIDD

NEW YORK — On April 18 supporters of the anti-apartheid student sit-in converged on Columbia University. Feeder marches from nearby Harlem and the Upper West Side grew to over 1,000, an indication of the support this struggle has generated among working people.

Hundreds of Columbia students also turned out in support. The rally grew to a very spirited 2,000. The students, who are the veterans of this struggle, led in the favorite chants: "Apartheid kills—Columbia pays the bills," "No business! No business! No business in South Africa!"

The rally was addressed by trade union leaders, local media personalities, a representative of SWAPO — the Namibian liberation organization — and by the leaders of Black and Hispanic tenants battling the eviction efforts of Columbia the slumlord.

For twenty-one days, the students have held the steps in front of Hamilton Hall, renamed Mandela Hall, demanding that the University divest all of its holdings in corporations doing business in South Africa. They've won solidarity from labor unions, community organizations, and churches. They've exposed the hypocrisy of Columbia and sparked anti-apartheid struggles involving thousands on campuses across the country.

In a series of discussions after the April 20 antiwar march in Washington, D.C., the coalition organizing the protests de-

cided to change its tactics while continuing the struggle. They were convinced they had achieved all that they could from the sit-in.

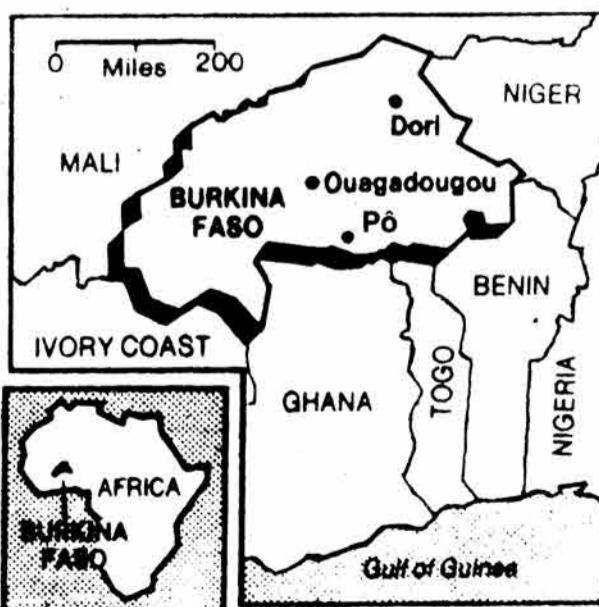
They decided to participate in the national day of student protests on April 24, ending the sit-in on Thursday night, April 25, with a mass rally at 5:30 p.m. A series of other actions have also been planned, including a march to Canaan Baptist Church to show their solidarity with the Harlem community, and a protest at the South African consulate. The students plan a large rally to hear African National Congress (ANC) leader Oliver Tambo on April 27 at the Low Library on campus. An action is also planned for commencement on May 17.

On April 23, 150 New York University students held a rally to protest apartheid and demand that NYU divest its \$2.9 million in companies that do business in South Africa. The rally featured David Ndaba of the African National Congress, Letisha Wadsworth of the Black United Front, and Gerald Horn of the National Black Lawyers.

Meanwhile at Rutgers University, 5,000 people participated in a rally on April 23. Speakers at the rally included a representative of the ANC, Jesse Jackson, and Rev. Henry Atkins, a leader of the movement providing sanctuary for refugees from El Salvador and other Central American countries.

Revolution in Burkina: an African people stand up to imperialism

Eyewitness report



At top, 1983 demonstration in solidarity with Namibian independence struggle, held in the capital of Burkina, the West African country formerly known as Upper Volta.

BY ERNEST HARSCH

OUAGADOUGOU — Right next to the presidential palace and State House here in Burkina's capital stands the embassy of France — the former colonial ruler.

Even after this West African country won its formal independence from France in 1960, it was from that embassy that many important political and economic decisions were dictated to the neocolonial government.

But today things are changing. Revolutionaries occupy the presidential palace and State House. They no longer want the embassy's constant "advice." In fact, according to Burkina's Foreign Minister Basile Guissou, the closeness of the French embassy to the seat of political power presents a "security problem." The Burkinabé leaders are thus seeking to recover the French diplomatic buildings for their own use and to move the embassy farther away.

This shift is just one small reflection of the popular, anti-imperialist revolution that is unfolding here. It is a revolution that aims to free Burkina from the imperialist yoke and to begin the enormous task of overcoming the legacy of poverty and misery created by imperialist oppression.

One of world's poorest nations

With 7 million people, Burkina is today one of the poorest countries in the world. That is not because it lacks natural resources or the determination of its people to work hard. It has plenty of both.

Burkina is poor because it has been dominated by imperialism for the past century.

When the French colonialists first arrived in force in the 1890s, they conquered the various indigenous societies through armed might. They named their new colony Upper Volta, as part of what was then called "French West Africa."

The colonialists imposed taxes and the forced cultivation of crops like cotton and peanuts that were destined for the French market. The peasants worked hard, but received little for their labor. Tens of thousands were forcibly conscripted and deported to the Ivory Coast and other colonies to work on French-owned plantations.

Though the French colonialists claimed to be "civilizing" Upper Volta, they brought virtually no health care, education, or economic development. Most people still engaged in subsistence agriculture, outside the money economy. The country served largely as a reserve of cheap migrant labor for other French colonies.

During the 1950s, however, independence struggles began to sweep the French colonies of Africa (as they did those of Britain and Belgium), involving demonstrations, strikes, and, in the case of Algeria, a popular war of liberation. Fearful of even more massive social upheavals, Paris finally relinquished formal political independence. Wherever it could, however, it handed power over to subservient neocolonial political figures.

That was how Upper Volta got its independence. The toiling masses were freed from the direct stranglehold of French colonial rule, but in its place saw the installation of a regime that remained subordinate to imperialist domination. At the same time, a tiny handful of merchants, tribal chiefs, businessmen, military officers, and government officials were able to enrich themselves at the expense of the rest of the population.

After 23 years of neocolonial rule, these were the results for the laboring masses:

The gross domestic product is a little more than \$100 per person — one of the lowest in the world.

Some 95 percent of the population cannot read or write in any language, and only 16 percent of all school-age children are in school.

Diseases like yellow fever and malaria are endemic, 180 out of every 1,000 children die in infancy, there is only one doctor for every 50,000 inhabitants, and life expectancy is a bare 40 years.

As this reporter saw during a 90-mile trip through the countryside south of Ouagadougou, most people continue to live in thatched or dried mud-brick houses, with no electricity, telephones, or transportation. A majority have no safe drinking water, and women must often walk 10 or 20 miles a day just to fetch some water.

Particularly for those living in the more arid northern regions, drought and famine are frequent and disastrous. Today, some 1 million people are affected by serious food shortages, and the country's underdevelopment makes it difficult to provide timely assistance and fight the affects of the drought.

There is almost no industry, aside from a sugar refinery, bicycle factory, a vegetable-oil enterprise, and a few textile plants and breweries. The country's extensive mineral resources remain largely untapped. The urban working class numbers a bare 20,000 — about 0.3 percent of the total population.

As Thomas Sankara, now Burkina's president, put it: "While Upper Volta was a paradise for the wealthy minority, for the majority, the people, it was a hell of almost impossible suffering."

The August 4 revolution

In reaction to this unjust system, the people rebelled. General strikes, demonstrations, student protests, and other actions were common and led to the downfall of several governments.

Despite the repression by a series of military regimes, the unrest continued and deepened. Radical political ideas spread within the unions and student groups, and eventually within the ranks of the army, including among a layer of junior officers. Left-wing political groups were formed.

By the early 1980s, radical junior officers such as Capt. Thomas Sankara established contacts with unionists and members of these political groups. They began to directly challenge the policies of the top officer corps.

In 1982, a rightist regime was overthrown in a coup spearheaded by noncommissioned officers and rank-and-file soldiers. Sankara was named prime minister in January 1983, and several radical civilian activists were appointed to the cabinet.

Sankara lost no time in using his post as a platform to denounce imperialist oppression and proclaim solidarity with revolutionary struggles like those in Nicaragua and El Salvador. He also condemned the "internal enemies of the people" and encouraged struggles by the trade unions. His supporters organized mass rallies, drawing tens of thousands of participants.

The French imperialists and their allies within the country took fright. From the French embassy next to the presidential palace, a coup was orchestrated by rightist officers, who used Pres. Jean-Baptiste Ouédraogo as their figurehead. They struck on May 17, 1983, arresting Sankara and other radical leaders.

But the French authorities had underestimated the extent of Sankara's popular support. The coup backfired, sparking a massive upsurge. Students poured into the streets, chanting, "Down with imperialism!" Troops in Pô, led by Capt. Blaise Compaoré, a close comrade of Sankara's, rebelled and took control of that town. Left-wing activists forged contacts with the rebel troops and helped organize resistance to the coup.

On Aug. 4, 1983, these popular forces were strong enough to strike back. They marched on Ouagadougou, overthrew the rightist regime, and set up the National Council of the Revolution (CNR), headed by Sankara. As the news spread, massive support demonstrations swept the country.

Mass defense committees

Sankara affirmed that August 4 was not just another military coup, but "a genuine popular insurrection."

Unlike many seemingly radical regimes in Africa, the new leaders did not appeal to the population to return to their homes and leave all the decisions to the new government. They did not make all sorts of empty promises to "bring" the people salvation.

Instead, the August 4 seizure of power marked the beginning of a serious and systematic effort to mobilize the toiling people to themselves take an active part in political life, to form their own mass organizations. Sankara's first act was to appeal for the formation of popularly

Continued on next page

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based Committees for the Defense of the Revolution (CDRs).

These committees are open to everyone who supports the revolutionary process, and their leaderships are elected in general assemblies. Since Aug. 4, 1983, thousands of CDRs have been set up, in virtually every workplace, neighborhood, military unit, and village.

The CDRs serve as forums for political discussion and education. They mobilize communities to build new schools, health clinics, and other facilities. They help implement agrarian reform and other programs. They distribute food and organize relief for famine victims.

And on a massive scale, the CDRs are training and arming the civilian population to take up the military defense of the country. Militia units, called People's Vigilance Brigades, have been set up in many neighborhoods and workplaces. It is very common today to see young people, in uniform and out, strolling around with Kalashnikov automatic rifles.

Of course, the CDRs have experienced some difficulties. The widespread illiteracy, the shortage of experienced cadres, the fact that people speak scores of different languages, the remoteness of many parts of the countryside, and the social legacy of patriarchal tribal society and of imperialist oppression have all been obstacles toward efficient organization of the CDRs.

Nevertheless, an important beginning has been made.

'A democratic, popular revolution'

It is this direct, mass participation — combined with the radical social measures that have been initiated — that marks the process that began on Aug. 4, 1983, as a revolution, not just an attempt to institute some progressive reforms from above. It is a popular revolution, involving all sectors that have been exploited and oppressed by imperialism — the peasantry, the tiny working class, the unemployed youth, and the various middle strata such as small traders and businesspeople.

In a major programmatic speech given in October 1983, Sankara identified the the enemies of the revolution as: the imperialists, the sectors of the small bourgeoisie linked to imperialism, and the reactionary elements in the countryside that "base their power on the traditional feudal-type structures of our society."

The revolution, Sankara said, "is a democratic and popular revolution. Its primary tasks are to liquidate imperialist domination and exploitation and to cleanse the countryside of all social, economic, and cultural obstacles that keep it in a backward state."

He said that its popular character "arises from the full participation of the Voltaic [Burkinabé] popular masses in this revolution and their resulting mobilization around democratic and revolutionary slogans that express in real terms their own interests against those of the reactionary classes allied with imperialism."

Sankara affirmed that "in place of the old state machinery, a new machinery is being constructed that will guarantee the democratic exercise of power by the people and for the people."

The aim of building a "new society" here has been symbolized by the change of the country's name, made during the celebrations marking the first anniversary of the revolution, from Upper Volta to Burkina. (Often, Burkina Faso is used, which roughly means the "Republic of Burkina.")



Century of imperialist domination has left Burkina's laboring masses in poverty. Virtually no industry was developed and most of the people were confined to subsistence agriculture.

Supporting the revolution and the CNR are various left-wing political groups, some of which hold positions in the predominantly civilian cabinet set up by the CNR. They include: the Union of Communist Struggle (ULC), the Association of Communist Officers (ROC, led by Sankara), the Patriotic League for Development (Lipad), and the Communist Group. They come from different political backgrounds, and at times the conflicts among them have been quite sharp.

Among activists here, there is considerable interest in revolutionary socialist ideas. Various Marxist works, especially those of Lenin, are used in political study circles. The French-language edition of *Granma*, the Cuban Communist Party newspaper, was evident in a number of offices I visited.

Activists here point out that "socialism is not on the agenda" in Burkina, given the extremely low level of economic development and the small size of the working class. The basic tasks, they say, are to end imperialist oppression, develop the economy, and bring improvements in the people's lives.

That will not be easy.

From land reform to women's rights

Since most of the Burkinabé population lives in the countryside, the CNR has placed special emphasis on improving their living and working conditions.

Major agrarian reform measures have been enacted. All land has been declared the property of the state. This eliminates the buying and selling of land, and thus the evil of land speculation. At the same time, those who ac-

tually work the land are entrusted with full rights to use it. Special assistance is being given to peasants, including the construction of new feeder roads, dams, and irrigation canals and greater access to credit on easy terms.

New health clinics are being built, particularly in rural areas, and in late 1984 some 2 million Burkinabé children were vaccinated against measles, meningitis, and yellow fever.

A mass literacy campaign is being conducted by CDR activists, with villagers being taught first of all to read and write in one of the three main indigenous languages, Moré, Dioula, and Fulfuldé. In addition, regular school fees have been reduced, hundreds of new classrooms have been built, and other steps have been taken to increase school attendance and improve the quality of education.

In both state-run and private enterprises, the CDRs and unions have been given greater powers to defend workers' rights. In the state enterprises, new management councils have been set up, with CDR activists, union delegates, and employee representatives holding half the seats in each council. In a few cases, workers have ousted corrupt and unpopular managers.

Despite the extreme forms of oppression they face, women are beginning to step forward. This has been actively encouraged by the political leadership. According to Sankara, "The revolution and women's liberation go together. And it is not an act of charity or a humanitarian gesture to talk of women's emancipation. It is a basic necessity for the triumph of the revolution."

On a modest scale thus far, women have begun to become active participants in the CDRs and the militia, including in leadership positions. There are several women cabinet ministers and provincial governors.

During the first week of March, leading up to International Women's Day on March 8, some 300 women from throughout Burkina held a major conference here in the capital to discuss different aspects of their oppression and how to fight for their liberation.

In October 1984, the government launched the People's Development Program (PPD). This 15-month program will involve the construction of roads, irrigation and hydroelectric dams, wells, a railway, housing, agro-industrial enterprises, health clinics, post offices, grain storage bins, sports fields, cinemas, and other facilities. Many of these projects are on a modest scale, and much of the labor is to be mobilized by local CDRs.

The aim of the PPD is to lay the basis for even greater economic development in the future, especially in agriculture. When it is completed in December, the government hopes to launch a new 5-year economic plan.

Fighting imperialism

Burkina's own fight against imperialist oppression is closely linked with other anti-imperialist struggles. Recognizing this, the CNR has adopted a radical foreign policy.

It has established ties with various workers states; expressed solidarity with the liberation struggles in South Africa, Namibia, Palestine, and the Western Sahara; and has condemned imperialist interventions like those in Lebanon, Chad, and Grenada. Speaking before the United Nations in October 1984, Sankara also denounced Washington's war against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Continued on ISR/4

From an interview with Pres. Sankara

The following is an excerpt from an interview with Capt. Thomas Sankara, the head of the governing National Council of the Revolution and the president of Burkina Faso (the Republic of Burkina), formerly known as Upper Volta. It was obtained by Ernest Harsch on March 17 in Ouagadougou, the capital of that West African country. Originally given in French, the interview has been translated by *Intercontinental Press*. To obtain a copy of the full interview, see IP ad on page 6.

Question: If you had a few minutes to address the working people of the United States, what would you say?

Answer: We hope that the American working people, and the American people in general, would understand that the people of Burkina Faso are not enemies of the Americans. The people of Burkina Faso are a people who are proud of their identity and independence, who jealously guard their independence. Just like you Americans; when you fought for your independence you said, "America for the Americans," and you didn't want any European intervention. You fought against Great Britain for your independence. I think that's natural and that it's only fair that we should have the same elementary right.

You should know that we are in solidarity with the Americans in their suffering. Even if you have greater material wealth than we, you have misery in your hearts, and we know, like you, what the cause of that misery is.

That misery is the ghettos of Harlem. It's also the fact that the American, whatever his wealth, lives like a pawn on a chessboard, who can be removed or manipulated. This misery is also the life of aggression and barbarism, the dehumanized and inhuman life that was created in the United States because of the power of money, of capital.

We know, like you do, that it's imperialism that organizes and sustains all this. We must fight against it together.

We appeal to the American people to understand us, to aid us in our struggle, just as we will also aid them. But it can never be said that we're their enemies. That's not true. We wish full success to the American people, all of whose struggles are also our struggles.

Unfortunately, they are not told one-tenth of the truth about the realities of the world. We hope that the American people will not be those people who are insulted around the world, by slogans on the walls, "Yankee go home. Yankee go home." The American people cannot be proud of that. A country, a people, cannot be proud that wherever they go other people look at them and think that behind them are the CIA, the attacks, the arms, etc. The American people are also a people capable of love, of solidarity, of sincere friendship.

We want to correct all this. We want to help you have your place, whether through your leaders or through yourselves, the people, on the condition that you accept the fact that we condemn the evils and causes of this general, worldwide distrust toward the American people.

Sandino's legacy to Nicaraguan revolution today

Speech by Sergio Ramírez



Nicaraguans carry poster of Augusto César Sandino at rally celebrating revolution.

The following is a speech by Sergio Ramírez, who was elected vice-president of Nicaragua in the November 1984 elections there. He is a prominent author and has been a member of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) since 1975. In 1977, prior to the victory of the Nicaraguan revolution, he was instrumental in organizing a group of 12 well-known professionals into supporting the FSLN-led armed insurrection against dictator Anastasio Somoza.

The speech was first published in the July-August 1984 issue of the English-language edition of *Tricontinental*, a magazine published in Cuba by the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America (OSPAAL). It is available in a new book of speeches by leaders of the Sandinista revolution entitled *Nicaragua: the Sandinista People's Revolution*. It is © Copyright 1985 by Pathfinder Press and is reprinted here by permission of the publisher.

To obtain a copy of the book, write Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Price is \$7.95; please include 75 cents for postage and handling. See the special subscription offer on page 2.

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One of the ways the Right tries to discredit the character and thinking of Sandino¹ is to deny the contemporaneity of this man and his philosophy.

But Sandino is very much a part of the contemporary scene. His actions were not separate from the historical circumstances in which he lived; they were the direct result of a contradiction, a confrontation between Nicaragua and imperialism. And since this contradiction has not disappeared, the man and his deeds live on.

Let's look at the relevance of Sandino's thoughts and actions in terms of three aspects: first, the defense of sovereignty; second, popular democracy; and third, economic change. These three elements comprise an important basis of the Sandinista people's revolution, and they are a direct heritage of Sandino's thought and action.

We've already pointed out that Sandino's deeds were marked by one principal contradiction: the Nicaraguan nation versus U.S. imperialism.

Nicaragua's geopolitical situation as part of a conglomerate of small countries which happens to be in close proximity to the United States is what has determined this confrontation. This was combined with the possibility of a canal route through the isthmus — it could have been either Panama or Nicaragua — which awakened the imperial powers' (especially England's) lust for this territory ever since the nineteenth century. England and the United States squabbled over the Caribbean throughout the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Related to this was the occupation of Nicaragua by individual filibusters like William Walker² in the middle of the last century, and also the expansionist desires of the United States, which tried to take over all of Central America. It was after the defeat of the Paris Commune that England began to consolidate its colonial domain in Africa and Asia. When the war between the United States and Spain for possession of Cuba was resolved in favor of the United States in 1898, this marked the first division between the world's imperial powers. The United States began to fully exercise its rule over the Caribbean.

The war resulted in the United States taking over Cuba, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Philippines (the last remaining possessions of the Spanish Empire). It was through this first imperialist war that the United States came to exercise its firm rule over the Caribbean, effectively terminating once and for all British interests in this region — including those in Nicaragua and other parts of Central America.

[U.S. President] McKinley began the process, taking over Cuba. It was continued by Theodore Roosevelt, who appropriated Panama, and [William] Howard Taft, who took Nicaragua. One by one the countries of the Caribbean: Santo Domingo, Haiti, Honduras, as well as Nicaragua, Cuba, and Puerto Rico, came to be occupied

1. Augusto César Sandino — Nicaragua's national hero and general on the Liberal side in the 1926-27 Constitutional War. Rejected the Liberal betrayal in 1927 and led a six-year guerrilla struggle against the U.S. Marines and proimperialist forces; murdered Feb. 21, 1934, on orders of the first Somoza dictator.

2. William Walker — A U.S. adventurer (filibuster); led a mercenary attack on Nicaragua in 1854 attempting to annex it to the United States as a slave state. He made himself president of Nicaragua until driven out by Central American armies in 1856; later captured and executed in Nicaragua.

still trying to regain its hegemony over the Nicaraguan nation.

The first principle: defense of sovereignty

The Sandinista thesis of defense of sovereignty, which was Sandino's first principle in opposition to U.S. occupation, has lost none of its timeliness in Nicaragua, since this contradiction continues today.

A Sandinista concept just as important as that of the defense of sovereignty against intervention and U.S. occupation is the notion of the demise of the parallel tendencies: that is, the disappearance of the traditional oligarchic forces represented by the Conservative and Liberal parties. This would make way for new political forces representing new social forces.

These parallel tendencies came into being during the first Central American independence struggles, even before Nicaragua claimed its independence in 1821. They represented what later came to be the Legitimate Party in Nicaragua, the reactionary forces, those of the clerics and monarchists, who opposed independence efforts. Later this tendency was represented by the Democratic Party or democratic faction, which represented the Creole groups — distinguishing between the royalists, who came directly from Spain, and the Creoles, the children of the Spaniards who were born in the Americas.

The Creoles were an emerging force that tried to break the colonial ties to make way for diversification in their trade and economic interests which the colony could no longer satisfy. These were the partisans of independence. This confrontation continued even after independence was gained in 1821. The forces backed by the Catholic church and the big landowners opposed Morazán's⁴ proposal for a Central American federation. Morazán led the Liberal movement that called for a federation of Central American republics patterned after the young federation of the United States — which was the political-democratic model for the Central American countries — as opposed to the Conservatives, who wanted a single Central America, but not under a federal system. They wanted a Central America divided into provinces, with each maintaining its own sovereignty.

When Morazán's efforts were defeated, it was the Conservative scheme that won out in Central America. In Nicaragua the Liberal and Conservative factions fought for power until 1854, when President Fruto Chamorro's government succeeded in incorporating its oligarchic, patriarchal principles, which had been hotly debated since the days of the independence struggle, in the Nicaraguan constitution.

The result was a civil war and Yankee intervention.

After thirty years of Conservative governments, beginning with that of Tomás Martínez, the Liberals took power again in 1893 with the Zelaya⁵ administration and the Liberal revolution. This time it was the coffee growers, who had been consolidating their power since the end of the nineteenth century, who took power, representing new interests. The Conservative counterrevolution in 1909 did away with Zelaya and put the Conservative Party back in office, with the backing of the interventionist forces.

These two parallel political forces, the Liberals and the Conservatives, seesawed in power throughout Nicaraguan history — coming head-on in the 1927 Constitutional War — until Sandino's arrival. When the Liberal Moncada⁶ betrayed the cause in Espino Negro it was clear that, under the U.S. intervention, the only difference between the Liberals and Conservatives was their fight over who would bear the "caress of the foreign whip." It was also clear in the Nicaragua of 1927, when a group of men led by Sandino fought for national sovereignty and independence, that neither of these political forces was capable of responding to the nation's needs. Neither of the two parties accomplice and allied to foreign intervention was capable of representing the nation.

Sandino wanted to break forever with these two forces and recover the country's sovereignty. The struggle against the occupation forces necessarily implied a battle

Continued on next page

4. Francisco Morazán — Honduran patriot executed in 1842.

5. José Santos Zelaya — President of Nicaragua 1893-1909. Forced to resign by the United States when he began discussions with Germany and Japan over building interoceanic canal through Nicaragua.

6. José María Moncada — Led anti-U.S. Liberal forces in 1926-27 civil war; sold out in 1927 and signed a pact with U.S. envoy Henry Stimson.

Sandino's legacy to Nicaraguan revolution today

Continued from preceding page

against these parallel forces. The Liberal and Conservative parties were inextricably linked, and for Sandino, to do away with Yankee intervention, expel the invader, meant wiping out these parallel parties. Once foreign forces had left the country, when sovereignty and national independence had been assured, the matter of government within Nicaragua would have to be resolved with a new force, opposed to these parallel tendencies.

A party based on workers, farmers, artisans

That is why Sandino's political plans always spoke of a new party, which would represent the emerging social forces. Instead of representing the Creole oligarchy, the businessmen, the cattlemen, the coffee growers, it would be linked to the middle sectors, professionals and, above all, it would be a party based on an alliance between workers, peasant farmers, and artisans. The party must provide for the political organization of these forces, which are the ones who struggle against U.S. intervention. They are the miners and hired field hands, the small farmers of northern Nicaragua, the banana plantation workers, the ones who work in the lumber industry, artisans and students, progressive professionals. It was in this sense that Sandino often spoke of a labor party, a new democratic party, an agrarian party. Many names have been given to the projected new party in Nicaragua which would represent these new social forces. But its principal characteristic is that it must be an anti-imperialist party.

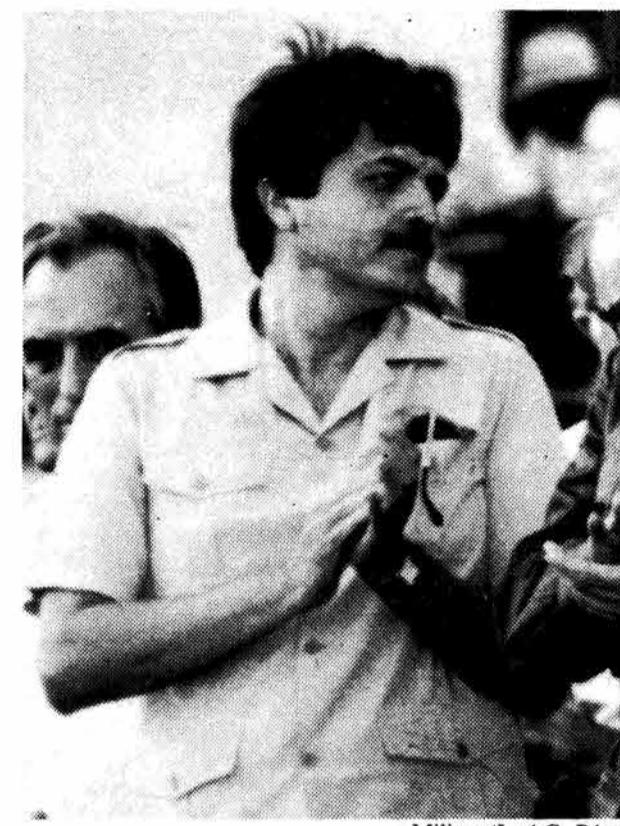
What are the economic consequences of the foreign occupation of Nicaragua?

First of all, control of national resources, mines and forests, followed by financial control. We shouldn't forget that when the Big Stick policy and Dollar Diplomacy were introduced in 1910, U.S. bankers literally took over Nicaragua. They took the railroads and customs as collateral for the usurious loans they gave the country; they created a national bank with headquarters in the United States. Financial control of the country was thus added to control of mining and forestry, which existed prior to the arrival of the occupation troops. And along with the control of national resources and finances, we have the problem of being tied to the capitalist markets, especially that of the United States, for export of national raw materials such as coffee.

This was the economic relationship established by the occupation, a relationship of control over the country's resources. To this must be added the internal consequences of oligarchic rule over Nicaragua: the latifundia, the limitation of the agricultural frontiers. That is, the lack of exploration and exploitation of enormous amounts of land, the lack of communication within the country, especially between the Atlantic and Pacific coasts, the very slight development of productive forces. Added to this, a marginalized and forgotten peasantry, and poor development of proletarian forces (which were found primarily in the mining sector, the banana plantations, and the lumber industry). This was due of course to the almost total lack of industrial development of the country in that period.

The most important financial resources were in the hands of the imperialists who dominated the economy and maintained the domestic economic backwardness. They gave the Creole oligarchy that was tied to them only the crumbs of their economic exploitation. The most dynamic sectors: banking, mining, railroads, and customs, were all directly exploited by imperialism.

The Sandinista response to all this was, first, the recovery of all national resources: the mines, the forests and, above all, what Sandino considered to be Nicaragua's greatest resource of all: the canal. For Sandino, the building of a canal wasn't only an economic matter, but one of critical political importance for the country's sovereignty. He insisted that the canal should be built by a company in which the majority interests would be held by Latin Americans. Sandino understood that the construction of a canal through Nicaragua could not be carried out solely through national investment, since there were not sufficient resources available.



Militant/José G. Pérez
Sergio Ramírez, vice-president of Nicaragua.

Second, Sandino's plan called for the development of farming and the means of communication, the national integration of the Atlantic and Pacific sections of the country.

Agrarian reform

And third, agrarian reform: an agrarian reform based on nationalization of the land and its organization into peasant cooperatives. Following this economic program, Sandino organized the first peasant cooperatives in Wiwilí, whose members were later massacred when he was assassinated in Managua in 1934.

Having recognized these three antecedents: national sovereignty, popular democracy, and economic transformation, it is important to see that these are reflected in today's Sandinista program.

None of these three basic lines have lost their relevance. On the contrary, they remain relevant because there is a program of national transformation in progress.

First of all we have defense of our sovereignty. It is possible to defend it in the context of the Sandinista people's revolution because the hegemonic force of the revolution represents the interests of the workers, the peasantry — of the revolutionary sectors of the country, which have the same class composition as Sandino's Army for the Defense of National Sovereignty of Nicaragua.

Just as the field hands, the artisans, miners, and small farmers were those who united to defend Nicaragua's national sovereignty in 1927, while the ruling groups of landlords and businessmen were embroiled with the intervention, this same clear delineation of forces has reappeared throughout the revolutionary process that began in 1979.

In the context of revolutionary rule it is possible to defend our nation's sovereignty because the Sandinista front represents the interests of the people, of the working class and peasantry; because there is an army that has this same class composition and perspective; the perspective Sandino had in 1927.

Neither Sandino nor his army represented a mixture of class interests. The Yankee intervention itself had defined the two camps and divided the classes for or against Nicaraguan sovereignty.

In addition to our military defense forces, the development of Sandinista political ideas in foreign policy makes it possible to defend our sovereignty. Throughout his struggle Sandino formed his own foreign policy based on the concept of a broad, worldwide — but especially Latin American — anti-imperialist alliance.

It would be an anti-imperialist alliance that would allow political space to develop the military efforts in defense of Nicaraguan sovereignty. It would include political parties of various ideological types under one anti-

imperialist banner, along with trade unions and workers' groups, and civic organizations from all over the continent. This political force would induce some Latin American governments to act in solidarity with them. The focus would always be on consolidating all forces against the imperialist advance in Latin America, because imperialist control of Nicaragua would lead to its control over all Central America, the fall of Mexico and the rest of the Latin American countries.

Sandino always placed great stress on this. In the face of this imminent danger he wanted one single strategy to confront imperialism with a wide-ranging effort by Latin American and global political forces.

There is a similarity between Sandino's ideas and the foreign policy of the Sandinista people's revolution: that of defending their efforts to consolidate the revolution on the international plane through a broad alliance in support of the revolution. This has been carried out through the Nicaraguan government's membership in the Nonaligned movement and various other alliances the revolutionary government has tried to set up around the world in support of the revolutionary process.

Sandino's idea of popular democracy when he called for the elimination of the parallel parties and the emergence of a new political force is being carried out and developed by the Sandinista people's revolution.

The revolution has at last made it possible for these noxious traditional political forces to disappear. As a new class takes power, the displaced classes, along with the parties representing their interests, are also displaced. And that new emerging force that Sandino dreamed of will replace them. That new force is the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN).

Popular democracy

Popular democracy can be developed by the Sandinista front through the bodies of people's power, which include the revolutionary government, the Council of State, and all the other forms of popular government that the revolution promotes through all phases of national life. This possibility of consolidating popular rule has also made it possible to develop and strengthen plans for popular democracy throughout the country. Once freed of foreign domination in national political life, freed from the influence of foreign forms of government and the rule by those parallel parties, it is possible to move entirely toward new forms of organization for running the country, to the benefit of the new class that is now in power.

The Sandinista revolution replaced the foreign and oligarchic interests, which in Sandino's time dominated national life, and which continued to do so in different forms under the dictatorship of the Somoza family. The Somozas ruled over an agricultural-export capitalist economy, followed by an industrial, banking, and financial one. When the Sandinistas replaced these classes in power, they also took over the economic reins of the country. This initiated a Sandinista economic program which also has its seeds in the ideas of Sandino.

It begins with the recovery of Nicaragua's national resources, its mines, forests, and fishing resources which were all in foreign hands. This was achieved through the nationalization of important sectors of the economy, finances, insurance, industry, commerce, transportation — by declaring these areas property of the people. But above all, referring to the ideas of Sandino, it is expressed through the agrarian reform program, through the political preference the revolution has given to the agricultural production cooperatives. To Sandino, these were the core of his agrarian reform: nationalization of the land and the organization of peasant cooperatives.

All of these measures, developed during the years of revolution, are the bases that open the way for a new economy and the organization of a new society.

We can't say that all the ideas that motivate the revolutionary Sandinista program were in Sandino's mind, were part of his plans. We're talking about another period of time, with different circumstances. While it is true that the intervention, the contradiction, and the enemy are the same, the development of productive forces in the country is different. They are of a different quality. The evolution of social forces in Nicaragua also reflects two different eras. But the basic ideas which resulted from that fundamental contradiction have remained unchanged throughout history. They came to bear fruit during the Sandinista people's revolution, beginning with the class concept which Sandino had already clearly established in his struggle. This is the basis of the identity between the two eras. It is in this clear class interest that we find the necessary connection between Sandino's ideas of nationhood, of sovereignty; the Sandinista popular antioligarchic idea, and the necessary scientific conception that the ideology of the revolution must have. That revolutionary ideology is based simultaneously on Sandino's thinking and on the scientific concept of history, on universal scientific concepts.

Burkina stands up

Continued from ISR/2

Sankara has visited Cuba and has praised the advances of the Cuban revolution.

Given the CNR's independent stance, the imperialists — especially those in Paris and Washington — have reacted to it with hostility. They have sought to apply economic pressure by withholding certain important aid, including assistance in fighting the drought. French troops have held major military maneuvers in neighboring Ivory Coast, near Burkina's border. And pro-imperialist elements within Burkina have organized several assassination attempts, sabotage actions, and coup plots.

Faced with such attacks and threats, the leadership has strongly emphasized the training and arming of the people.

"The more we have discovered that imperialism is a dangerous enemy," Sankara told me, "the more determined we have become to fight it. And each time we find new forces to stand up to it."

Pan Am contracts are new setback for airline unions

BY LOUIS LONG

MIAMI — The contract battles this year at Pan American Air Lines ended in setbacks for the unions.

The Pan Am experience is a result of the lack of adequate union solidarity and the weakening of the union movement by the increase in the number of nonunion workers in the airline industry.

The members of the Transport Workers Union (TWU) — about 6,000 mechanics and other ground workers — and about an equal number of members of the Independent Union of Flight Attendants were forced to accept badly weakened contracts and loss of jobs. The members saw accepting the contracts as the only way to prevent the actual destruction of their unions.

Those Pan Am workers now back on the job face deteriorating working conditions. As a ramp worker with 25 years seniority put it, "Management is acting like the union has a broken leg and can be pushed around."

Scabs openly recruited

Pan Am workers were not just up against the company. A TWU negotiator reports that when federal mediators were brought in, there was no pretense of neutrality — it just added more people to the management side of the table.

Management tore up contract agreements concerning jobs, pensions, and wages.

When the unions got a federal judge to reverse a unilateral company wage cut, the company put the issue on the negotiating table and forced the unions to give it up.

Scabs were openly recruited and trained to replace flight attendants who were not even on strike. The Federal Aviation Administration set up special testing sessions to certify these scabs to fly. (Since they haven't yet been used to actually break a strike, the union flight attendants call these potential replacements "scabettes.")

When the TWU mechanics did go on strike, the company violated Federal Aviation safety regulations with the knowledge of FAA inspectors.

Management and the government again put strike breaking ahead of safety, just like they did in the air controllers strike and the strike against Continental Airlines.

International solidarity that the strikers were hoping for never came through. When National Airlines was on strike in 1978, airport workers in England grounded National planes, helping the U.S. workers win a better contract. National merged with Pan Am in 1980, and many former National workers were hoping for similar support.

Here in Miami, county cops and the airport authority set up rules for picketing that limited strikers to two people per gate, standing off to the side of the road and away from the main Pan Am door at the terminal.

With all this help, the bosses won a victory.

More work, less money, fewer jobs

What are some of the setbacks in the new contracts?

- Two-tier wage scales are established. "B scales" are 30-36 percent below current levels.

- Union jobs are eliminated through combinations and contracting out work.

- Many, if not all, new workers hired under these three-year contracts will be

part-timers (up to 15 percent of the TWU work force). Part-timers cannot even join the union.

- Workers hired from other countries as flight attendants will be paid as little as \$200 a month, compared to \$1,250 a month for current employees. And they cannot join the union.

- For the TWU, the grievance procedure will now be handled by the international union in New York, not locally. This can mean such long delays that workers may lose their jobs regardless of the outcome of the grievance.

For airline workers these developments at Pan Am represent the third major setback in less than five years. The others were the destruction of the air controllers union (PATCO) by the federal government and the breaking of the unions at Continental Airlines.

Take it or leave it

Only about 70 percent of the 1,000 TWU strikers have been called back to work in Miami. Prospects don't look good for the other 300.

Before the four-week strike ended, company chairman C. Edward Acker told *Fortune* magazine that the company could operate full tilt with 24,000 employees — 2,000 fewer than before the strike. For TWU-organized jobs, fewer people are already doing more work. And many jobs have been wiped out.

During the strike the company sold off the kitchens to the nonunion Marriott Corp., losing 700 union jobs. An earlier management pledge to protect those jobs was torn up.

The work of cleaners and baggage handlers, called fleet service at Pan Am, was combined into a single category, wiping out more jobs.

A decisive factor in ending the strike was the management threat to hire a nonunion contractor to take over fleet service.

The 300 Pan Am workers who have not been called back yet in Miami are people with up to ten years' seniority. Some TWU members predict they will never get those jobs back. According to the new contract, if you're not on the payroll as of January 1, 1986, you're not a permanent employee. You could then be called back as a part-timer at 30 percent less pay and no union protection.

Divide and conquer

Dividing the workers between higher-paid union members and lower-paid workers, who may be part-timers and not in the union, weakens all workers. It guarantees continued deterioration in working conditions and breaks up the solidarity that is the basis for union action.

It also guarantees that higher-paid workers face additional pressure to retire early and accept lower pay themselves in the next contract.

Pan Am is the largest U.S.-based international air carrier. The TWU had a relatively strong presence at the company and, until about the last five years, was able to win steady contract improvements. The TWU hadn't been on strike at Pan Am in over 20 years.

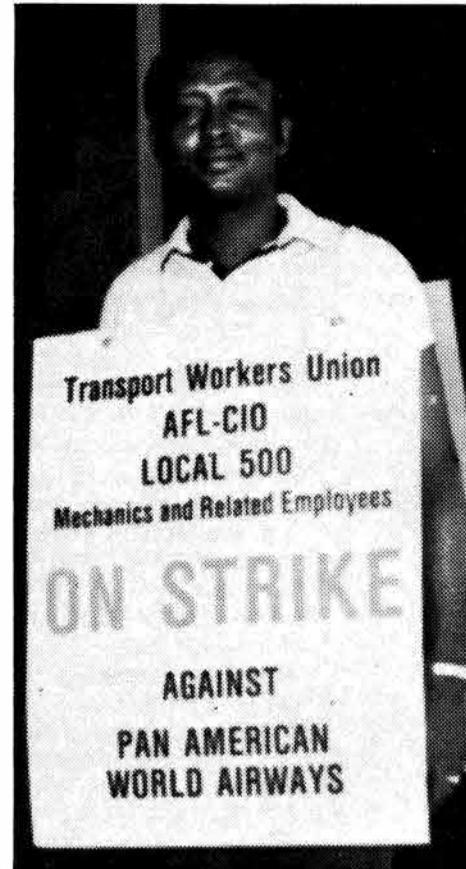
Why did they fail to win a better contract this time, even after a strike?

There is a lot of discussion about this. The Teamsters officials, for example, are giving their answer: a raid.

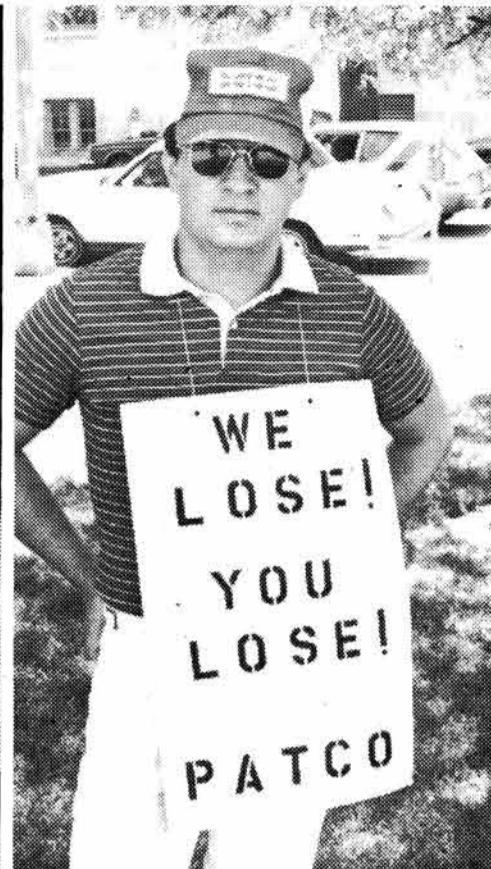
The Teamsters already organize clerks at Pan Am. The literature they put out sounds militant and tries to capitalize on the failure of the four-week TWU strike to win a better contract.

But the Teamsters raid is motivated by a hunger for dues dollars, not a fighting perspective for better contracts. The Teamsters hope to drive out the TWU by blaming the union leadership and claiming they would have done better. But the Teamsters leadership does just as poorly in responding to the employers' and government offensive against workers.

Worse is that the Teamsters would focus energy and money on trying to raid the



Militant



Militant/Bernie Senter

Pan Am striker pickets at Miami airport during recent strike (left). At right, member of Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization during 1981 PATCO strike. Although PATCO waged militant strike, default of trade union officialdom in actively organizing support led to PATCO's destruction and major setback for labor movement. This left airline workers in weaker position to defend themselves against employer attacks like that waged by Pan Am.

TWU instead of trying to help organize nonunion airline workers.

It is the growth of nonunion airlines and aircraft service companies that is the biggest pressure driving down the wages and working conditions of union airline workers.

Until the mid-1970s, the large majority of airline workers were union members. The greatest number of these were in the International Association of Machinists (IAM), still the largest airline union.

The TWU is based at Pan Am and American Airlines. The major nonunion airline, Delta, paid pretty much union-scale wages and benefits in order to keep the unions out.

This changed when the government deregulated the airlines in 1978. It opened the way for new airlines to begin operating. Almost all of them started out nonunion.

Neither the IAM nor the TWU reacted to this challenge by launching massive union-organizing drives. They talked about it, but before anything got going, the air-traffic controllers went on strike in August, 1981.

That strike resulted in one of the worst defeats for the labor movement in the United States in recent history.

The controllers union, PATCO, although it was a member of the AFL-CIO, was abandoned by the rest of the unions.

Seeing them isolated, Reagan turned the weight of the federal government against PATCO and literally destroyed it.

The top union leaders, led by the AFL-CIO officialdom, had plenty of excuses for abandoning PATCO. They hoped pressure could be exerted on the administration by their friends in Congress. Or as Machinists union president William Winpisinger said, he would have led some actions, but he was waiting for the pilots union to act. For all these officials, lip-service solidarity was in; flexing union muscle to shut down the airports was out.

It's 'our' company

Instead of extending union organization to other airline workers, the existing airline unions turned to helping each company compete better.

Both the Machinists and the Transport Workers started to break industry-wide contract patterns established in the past. They made concessions in wages, benefits, and "productivity."

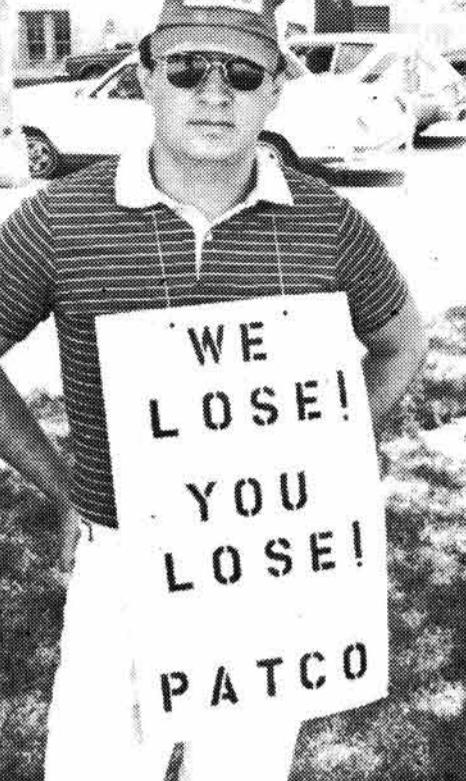
It is estimated that between 1980 and 1984, Pan Am workers gave up \$300 million in concessions.

Every concession led to demands for more concessions.

Concessions at one airline encouraged concessions at other airlines.

At Eastern, the fraud of the "workers as company owners" was invented when the Machinists union leadership accepted the biggest pay cut yet — 18 percent — in exchange for promises of stock and a seat on the company board of directors.

By 1985, the TWU members at Pan Am



Militant/Bernie Senter

decided they had made enough concessions and voted down an insulting contract offer from the company. But when they tried to shut the airline down with a strike, they failed. The strike was unable to stop Pan Am's operations.

Workers on the picket lines realized this when they watched Pan Am 747s taking off nearby.

Not enough solidarity

The TWU strike began with pledges from all the unions at the airline to honor the picket lines. But the pilots returned to work after one week.

In Miami, machinists at Eastern Airlines supported the Pan Am strike more actively than many Pan Am workers had anticipated.

But collecting money, walking a symbolic picket line once a week, and passing resolutions of support was not enough.

An April 10 letter from John J. Kerigan, international vice-president and director, Air Transport Division of the TWU, told the TWU members, "The strike also proved that unity is also the cornerstone of our union . . . even when the other unions began crossing our picket lines, the TWU membership remained solid and calm because we all realized it was our fight to win or lose."

The Pan Am workers are getting a number of bad suggestions about what to do next. In addition to the raid by the Teamsters, the pilots union is floating the idea that the workers should buy Pan Am and run it themselves.

This has the attraction of being a way to get rid of company heads Acker and Grebey, who are very unpopular among Pan Am workers.

But this attempt at worker ownership is doomed to failure like all similar efforts.

These schemes always result in the rip-off of money from the workers and, at best, a new job situation of pressure for more concessions, more productivity.

The capitalist economic system we live under guarantees the failure of every worker-owner scheme.

So far, the buy-out plan does not have much support among TWU members at Pan Am. They don't trust any idea coming from the pilots union.

The most positive thing coming out of the contract fights at Pan Am is in the spurring of new thinking and discussion among the workers. Attitudes of many TWU members have changed a lot. For example, in how they view the PATCO strike. There is much more talk about it now and more recognition of how serious a price still has to be paid for watching PATCO be defeated.

There is also recognition by many workers that they survived this contract battle with the union intact, although it is weakened. Many view the coming period as a time to regroup and plan a successful fight against the company.

Labor's Giant Step By Art Preis

The story of the rise of the CIO and the labor battles of the 1930s and 1940s. 538 pp., \$9.95 paper. Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West St., New York, N.Y. 10014. Please include \$.75 for postage and handling.

PBS series covers up U.S. war in Central America

BY BRIAN WILLIAMS

"Central America in Crisis," a PBS documentary, debuted April 9-12 on public television stations. The four one-hour presentations entitled "The Yankee Years," "Castro's Challenge," "Revolution in Nicaragua," and "Battle for El Salvador" were billed by producers as an objective look at both sides of U.S. government policy toward Central America.

Though it attempts to present a "balanced picture," the film definitely presents a point of view — a liberal State Department line on the fight against communism in Cen-

TELEVISION REVIEW

tral America and the Caribbean. Judy Woodruff of *Frontline* introduces each show by talking about "our government," and "our national security interests in the region."

Each program begins with Reagan saying, "The national security of all the Americas is at stake in Central America" — as if the handful of rich families and working people are or should be on the same side in Central America.

This show was produced by *Frontline* in collaboration with the Blackwell Corp., whose executive director, Neil Freeman, is a staunch conservative. He has served as Washington correspondent for William Buckley's *National Review* and helps produce Buckley's TV series, "Firing Line." Major funding for this program was provided by the Starr Foundation, which specializes in financing right-wing government "think tanks" such as Heritage Foundation, Hoover Institution, and the American Enterprise Institute.

Nonetheless, in order to try to convince U.S. workers that they actually have legitimate "national security" interests to defend in Central America, a great deal of fact and historical information is presented. Some of it is quite fascinating, such as TV footage never-before-seen in the U.S. that the Cuban government provided on the Cuban revolution.

There's a lot of valuable information presented in these programs, as well as quite a few inaccuracies.

Augusto Sandino's courageous struggle against U.S. military occupation of Nicaragua in the late 1920s and early 30s is not really explained. Instead, Sandino and his followers are described in the words of former U.S. Marines stationed in Nicaragua in the 1920s as "the bandits."

Similarly, the commentator simply states that the U.S. government decided to pull the marines out of Nicaragua on January 1, 1933. Totally absent was an explanation of why the marines left at that time. After all, there had been U.S. marines occupying Nicaragua for more than two

decades before. The truth is, the marines were forced out by the struggle waged by Nicaragua's workers and peasants, which Sandino was helping to lead.

The program interviewed leaders of the Cuban and Nicaraguan governments, as well as figures opposed to these revolutions. However, many of the individuals opposed to the Cuban revolution were just described as "exiles" or "oppositionists," when in reality they were right-wingers complicit with U.S. government military attacks against Cuba, such as the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion.

Huber Matos is interviewed several times. He's described as a former member of the July 26th movement who turned against Castro because of lack of democracy and was then imprisoned for 20 years. What's not explained is that Matos was not imprisoned for his ideas, but because he was working with the CIA in Camaguëy province in the fall of 1959.

Some of the best film segments are those showing Fidel Castro speaking at mass rallies and discussing everyday problems with Cuban farmers. It's clear that he's quite popular among the Cuban masses, in contrast to U.S. State Department charges that Castro is just another dictator.

"The revolution is for dignity," states Carlos Rafael Rodríguez, who is Cuban vice-president. "Dignity with economic rights. The right to education, health-care, employment. It's for freedom based on economic realities and the will of our people."

Sandinista leader Tomás Borge is also interviewed. He explains that only armed struggle led by the workers and peasants could defeat Somoza. "Businessmen couldn't do it, because they want Somozaism without Somoza," states Borge.

In the Nicaragua segment, the program avoids the question of the atrocities being committed by the U.S.-funded counterrevolutionaries (*contras*) against the Nicaraguan people during the past four years. However, it does show film footage on the brutal carpet bombing by the National Guard against Nicaraguan civilians that took place in several towns shortly before Somoza was overthrown. Right-wing death squad activity in El Salvador is also graphically documented.

A big point is made about the sending of Cuban troops to Angola in 1975. On this question, *Frontline* totally distorts the facts. They state that Cuban troops were sent to Angola to intervene in a civil war to help the Marxists win. The truth is that the Angolan government, led by the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), requested Cuban military assistance in order to beat back an invasion of their country by South Africa. In this the Cuban troops played a decisive role.

The commentator also states that Cuban troops were sent to Ethiopia in 1977, but says nothing about why. Again it was to help beat back an imperialist-inspired

military attack by Somalia against the Ethiopian revolution.

Then Democratic Pres. James Carter's so-called human rights policy is portrayed quite favorably as an effort to oppose dictatorships in Central America. In reality, this policy was simply an ideological cover for continuing military and economic support to brutal U.S.-backed regimes throughout the region. Some of Somoza's worst crimes were committed during this period.

One of the strengths of the program was the way it documented the history of constant U.S. military intervention in Central America and the bipartisan support for this policy throughout the century from Democratic and Republican administrations alike.

In 1926, Republican president Coolidge ordered the deployment of 2,000 marines to Nicaragua to join those that had been stationed there for the past two decades. In 1933, under Democratic Pres. Franklin Roosevelt's "Good Neighbor Policy," virtually the entire Atlantic fleet was sent towards Cuba when a general strike and peasant protests overthrew the government. U.S. warships remained in Havana Harbor until another pro-U.S. government came to power.

In 1954, under Republican President Dwight Eisenhower, a CIA-organized coup overthrew the democratically elected Arbenz government in Guatemala. Arbenz had initiated a land-reform program that nationalized 80 percent of the United Fruit Company's land.

In response to the January 1, 1959 triumph of the Cuban revolution, both Eisenhower and Democrat John F. Kennedy followed a common policy of trying to crush that revolution. Eisenhower imposed a trade embargo and broke diplomatic relations with Cuba. Kennedy organized the April 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion and imposed a naval blockade against Cuba in October 1962.

In 1965, Democratic Pres. Lyndon Johnson invaded the Dominican Republic with 20,000 troops under the battle cry of no more communist governments in the Western Hemisphere. Today, Reagan's stepped-up funding for the brutal regime in El Salvador is simply an escalation of the policy followed by Carter in the 1970s.

In many ways, "Central America in Crisis" raises more questions than it answers. However, by presenting a large number of historical facts, it can lead to deeper questioning by working people of current U.S. policies. "It makes you wonder who the bad guys really are," was the response of one young New Jersey auto worker to these programs.

Further discussions about this TV series can help explain why working people must actively oppose U.S. military intervention in Central America, and why the fight by workers and peasants there in defense of the Cuban and Nicaraguan revolutions and for a new social order must be our fight too.

Houston Black party discusses Grenada revolution

BY WILLIE M. REID

HOUSTON — Twenty-five people attended a meeting here sponsored by the Houston Local Organizing Committee of the National Black Independent Political Party (NBIPP) to commemorate the sixth anniversary of the Grenada revolution and its slain leader, Maurice Bishop.

The film *Maurice* — a collection of interviews with Bishop's family, close political collaborators, and young supporters — attracted activists from several groups in the Black community.

Followers of the Nation of Islam, Black Christian Nationalists, Black Hebrew Israelites, Pan-Africanists, students, and two Black industrial workers watched the movie and listened intently to the panelists that followed.

The speakers included Omawale Luthuli, head of the South Africa Task

Force and a member of the National Black United Front; Hugo Alberto, representing the Texas April 20th Mobilization Coalition; and Mary Pritchard, representing the Houston Local Organizing Committee of the NBIPP.

Most of the discussion centered on the role of the U.S. government in the Caribbean and Central America. Bishop was compared to the Sandinista leaders, and the

audience responded warmly to the suggestion to bring a Nicaraguan speaker to Houston.

Janet Brammer chaired the March 25 meeting and encouraged everyone to consider this a beginning of regular discussions of other important political questions like the struggle in South Africa, New Caledonia, and the revolution in Burkina.

"These are things that NBIPP wants to

discuss and understand," she said, and she urged those interested to join the local committee or work together on other projects.

A literature table with books on South Africa, Grenada, Malcolm X, T-shirts, photo-posters, and NBIPP charters and newsletters netted sales totaling \$45. Twelve people signed up to be contacted for more information on NBIPP.

Missouri farmer: 'Nicaragua has freedom'

BY JOE SWANSON

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Robert Brown, a grain farmer from Madison, Missouri, and member of the American Agriculture Movement spoke at a recent Militant Labor Forum here entitled "A U.S. Farmer Reports on Nicaragua Visit." Diane Shur, a member of the Young Socialist Alliance and United Auto Workers Local 31 also spoke.

Brown toured Nicaragua with other farmers, farm workers, and farm community activists in January. The tour was sponsored by Oxfam America along with the North American Farm Alliance and Federation of Southern Cooperatives. It was hosted in Nicaragua by the National Union of Farmers and Ranchers.

"For the first time in my life I felt comfortable with a government. I never felt better about a place I have visited," Brown said.

"We are fed a line in the United States that we have a chance to get rich. But the U.S. farmers are being squeezed to death. Any money I make is drained away. I don't even have the money to fix the fence on my farm this spring," Brown said.

He explained that in Nicaragua farmers were given land and low-interest credit, seeds, and supplies. The Nicaraguan government subsidizes the farmers so they can farm, and the government makes sure food prices for consumers are kept low.

Brown explained the impact of the U.S. war on the people of Nicaragua. The U.S. economic blockade, he said, is causing a large shortage of needed goods, including parts for John Deere farm equipment which sits idle because it can't be repaired. The war also takes a big toll on the economy in other ways, Brown explained, since the U.S.-backed counterrevolutionaries attack farms daily.

"Reagan says he wants democracy in Nicaragua. Nicaragua already has freedom," explained Brown. "Nicaragua is a beautiful example for all Central America ... that's the reason the U.S. government wants to overthrow the government."

Brown asked for a collection to help Oxfam with its humanitarian aid program to Nicaragua.

Shur echoed many of Brown's sentiments. She emphasized the need for workers and farmers to build an alliance to fight

to defend ourselves from attacks by the government and the corporations at home and against the war on our brothers and sisters in Nicaragua.



Militant
Robert Brown of the American Agriculture Movement

Independent Black Political Action: 1954-78

The struggle to break with the Democratic and Republican parties

Edited by Mac Warren, this Education for Socialist Publication includes articles on the Freedom Now Party, Lowndes County Freedom Organization, Black Panther Party, National Black Assembly, and more. 8 1/2 x 11 format, 72 pages, \$3.50

Order from Pathfinder Press, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014. Please include \$75 for postage and handling.

200 at Arizona conference hit deportations

BY BARRY FALAND
AND FRANCISCO PICADO

TEMPE, Ariz. — Two hundred Chicano and Mexican activists from Arizona, California, Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and Mexico participated in an International Conference Against the Simpson-Mazzoli and Roybal Proposed Immigration Legislation at the Arizona State University College of Law on March 29-31.

The conference was sponsored by the Chicano Advocacy and Training Institute, the Arizona Farmworkers Union (AFW), and other organizations. The majority of the participants were farm workers and farm-worker union leaders from the United States and Mexico.

Among the speakers at the conference was an undocumented Mexican worker, who described both the worsening economic conditions in Mexico and the increasing difficulty workers without papers living here face in finding jobs and housing and getting medical care. He explained the stepped-up harassment of undocumented workers by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, *la migra*. He discussed the need for undocumented workers to join with the Chicano community and the unions here to fight for justice.

Jorge Bustamante, noted Mexican immigration scholar, also spoke. He denounced the immigration policies of the U.S. government. He described what he called the "undocumented worker game" invented by

the bosses in this country.

"First the bosses in the United States tell the Mexican worker and peasant that there are jobs available in the U.S., that there's a market for them to sell their labor power," he said.

But, Bustamante continued, "to be able to pay the worker less, he [the boss] accuses them of being criminals. That way, if the boss needs a worker, he has one at a bargain price, and if he doesn't need one, or if the worker tries to speak up for his or her rights, the boss simply calls *la migra* and the worker instantly becomes an outlaw."

The conference included workshops to discuss the impact of these proposed immigration bills on the communities of the oppressed nationalities in this country and on the working class as a whole. Workshops also discussed the meaning of these bills for the church-sponsored sanctuary movement and Central American refugees.

The plenary session discussed and approved a number of important resolutions coming out of these workshops. It voted to support the Bill of Rights for Undocumented Workers drawn up at a previous conference in Mexico City in 1980. After debate, participants voted to oppose unconditionally both the Simpson-Mazzoli and Roybal immigration bills. The Simpson-Mazzoli bill — first adopted by the Senate in 1982 — would beef up the



San Antonio, Texas, protest in 1983. Actions like this against racist immigration proposals — such as Simpson-Mazzoli and Roybal bills that died in Congress last year — are important in pushing back new attacks.

Border Patrol, grant amnesty to undocumented workers after meeting stiff requirements, and require all U.S. workers to carry I.D. cards to prove their eligibility to hold a job. The Roybal bill is a liberal version of the Simpson-Mazzoli bill, eliminating some of its worst features, such as the I.D. card.

Both bills died in Congress last year, but it is expected new versions will be presented again. (Senator Alan Simpson recently announced plans to reintroduce a new version of his bill, which includes a proposal that amnesty be contingent upon a showing of improved enforcement of the immigration laws.)

The participants also passed a resolution calling for respect for the civil and union rights of migrant workers in the United States and Mexico, and direct participation of migrant workers in any negotiations between the Mexican and U.S. governments regarding accords that deal with them.

A high point of the conference was presentations to the plenary by accused

sanctuary activists from Nogales, Mexico. Father Dagaberto Quiñones and Maria del Socorro Pardo told about efforts to help the thousands of refugees from Guatemala and El Salvador.

Pardo denounced the U.S. immigration policy saying, "The refugees come here thinking that they will find social justice. They are fleeing injustice and come to find worse injustice here."

Jesús Romo, one of the conference organizers, explained the connections between the U.S. war in Central America and legislation like the Simpson-Mazzoli bill.

The final plenary session voted to condemn the U.S. intervention in Central America and to participate in the April 20 national protests.

The conference also condemned the U.S. government's policy of not granting political asylum to refugees fleeing repression in countries with governments friendly to Washington.

The conference was covered in both the U.S. and Mexican press.

Socialist sends solidarity

The Socialist Workers Party candidate for mayor of Phoenix, Elen Lauper, issued a message of solidarity to the conference. She explained, "The Simpson-Mazzoli and Roybal bills must be opposed because they divide us and lay the foundation for eventually forcing all workers to carry ID cards, like Black workers are forced to do in South Africa.

"This anti-immigrant campaign is tied directly to the escalating U.S. war in Central America. It blames and victimizes the workers and farmers of that region, who have been forced by the social and economic crisis of capitalism to emigrate to the North. Using racist and anticommunist propaganda, this government denies political asylum to Central American refugees

fleeing repression, torture, and death.

"The sanctuary movement addresses the U.S. government's inhumane treatment of refugees from El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. I support this movement and think that all trade unions . . . must campaign to defend both the refugees and those who help them. As the socialist candidate for mayor of Phoenix, I call on the Goddard administration and the City Council to declare the entire city of Phoenix a 'sanctuary'"

Supporters of the socialist campaign sold nearly 20 copies and subscriptions to *Perspectiva Mundial* and the *Militant*, as well as \$100 worth of literature, buttons, and T-shirts.

— B.F. and F.P.

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What we stand for:

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- End U.S. support to apartheid in South Africa.
- Stop union busting, racist and sexist attacks.
- Stop farm foreclosures.
- Defend democratic rights.
- Jobs, education, health care for all.
- For a labor party. For an independent Black party.
- For international working-class solidarity.
- For a workers and farmers government.
- For socialism.

COME TO THE YSA CONVENTION IN CHICAGO May 25-27, 1985

Hundreds of young antiwar activists and socialists will discuss perspectives for building an antiwar movement in the U.S. following the April 20 national demonstrations. Plenary sessions, workshops, classes, rally.

Please send me more information on the YSA and the convention.
 Enclosed is \$3.00 for six issues of the *Young Socialist*, newspaper of the YSA.
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Latinos find poverty in U.S.

BY ANDREA GONZÁLEZ

The Ford Foundation recently released a study entitled "Hispanics: Problems and Opportunities."

According to this study, which is based on government statistics, there are 20 million Latinos in the United States. (This figure does not necessarily include Latinos living in the United States without papers.) Of these, 60 percent are Chicanos; 14 percent Puerto Ricans; 14 percent other Hispanics; and 6 percent Cubans.

The average annual income of all Latinos considered in the study in 1981 was \$16,401, as compared to \$23,517 for whites, and \$13,266 for Blacks.

Thirty percent of all Latinos — a percentage two-and-one-half times higher than that of the white population — live in poverty.

Unemployment among Latinos was 13.8 percent in 1983, as compared to 8.4 percent for whites and 19.5 percent for Blacks.

The high school drop-out rate for His-

panics is the highest in the country. A whopping 37 percent of these youths leave school without a diploma, as compared to 16 percent of white and 19 percent of Black youths.

The Latino population in the United States is relatively new. While only one out of every 20 people in the population as a whole is born outside this country, one out of every three Latinos is born outside the United States and immigrates here.

The study explains that Latinos for a number of reasons, including the gerrymandering of election districts, are underrepresented both in elected and appointed offices at every level of government.

The study concludes that Latinos in general face discrimination. Chicanos and Puerto Ricans in particular suffer discrimination that blocks their educational and economic progress.

Although the study is entitled "Problems and Opportunities," little is said about what opportunities exist for Latinos today.

D.C. unionists' ad: No to U.S. war

The March 28 *Washington Post* ran an ad entitled "Union members do not support war in Central America."

The ad continues:

"Here's why:

"Our tax dollars are being used to jail, torture, and murder thousands of union members and others in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. This must stop!

"Our government is promoting a not-so-secret war against Nicaragua, a country whose citizens have made significant gains in recent years in literacy, health care, and working conditions. In neighboring Honduras, the U.S. has built a series of military airstrips and other facilities as a prelude to full-scale war. This too must be stopped!

"Meanwhile, billions have been slashed from spending for jobs, health care, education, and other needed social programs here at home.

"Priorities must be reversed!"

The ad was signed by literally dozens of union locals and individuals from Washington, D.C. and Maryland. Among the unions signing the ad were: Association of Federal Government Employees (AFGE) Local 12; AFGE Local 2607; AFGE National Capital Area Council; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Council 20; AFSCME Council 26; and D.C. Nurse's Association, Washington Hospital Center. Individual signers included Beatrice Crockett-Moore of District 1199E and Bernard Demczuk of AFGE Local 1550, as well as others.

The ad also appeared in Washington's *Afro-American*, a weekly Black paper, and other local papers.

The ad campaign was sponsored by The Washington Area Labor Committee on Central America and the Caribbean.

CALENDAR

CALIFORNIA

San Diego

The Fight to End Apartheid: What Can Be Done in the United States? A panel discussion. Speakers: Jim Stone, TransAfrica Free South Africa Movement; Greg Jackson, Socialist Workers Party; others. Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 1053 15 St. Donation \$2. Ausp: Militant Forum. For more information call (619) 334-4630.

San Francisco

Vietnam 10 Years Later: the Lessons for Today. A Young Socialist Alliance educational series with classes by Fred Halstead, author of *Out Now!*, a history of the movement against the war in Vietnam.

1. "Vietnam: Why the United States Was Defeated." Sun., April 28, 11 a.m.

2. "Vietnam: the Lessons for Today in the Struggle Against War in Central America." Sun., April 28, 2 p.m.

Translation to Spanish. 3284 23rd St. Donation: \$3. For more information call (415) 282-6255.

San Jose

Vietnam 10 Years Later: the Lessons for Today. A Young Socialist Alliance educational series with Fred Halstead, author of *Out Now!*, a history of the movement against the war in Vietnam.

1. "Vietnam: Why the United States Was Defeated." Sat., April 27, 11 a.m.

2. "Vietnam: the Lessons for Today in the Struggle Against War in Central America." Sat., April 27, 2 p.m.

46 1/2 Race St. Donation: \$3. For more information call (408) 998-4007.

COLORADO

Denver

Hunger in Africa: Imperialism Organizes a Famine. Speakers: Falitum Walamwa, African Student Association; Duncan Williams, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 3, 7:30 p.m. 25 W 3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

Cuba — The Revolution and Its Leadership. Speaker: Harry Nier, attorney who has traveled extensively in Cuba; Michael Hebert, Socialist Workers Party. Fri., May 10, 7:30 p.m. 25 W

3rd Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (303) 698-2550.

ILLINOIS

Chicago

You Have Struck a Rock. A film on the women's struggle against apartheid in South Africa. Translation to Spanish. Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 3455 S Michigan Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (312) 326-5853.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Lessons of the Vietnam War. Speaker: Brenda Brdar, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., April 27, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

A Proper Reply to 'Improper Conduct.' Speaker: Peter Anestos, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Vietnam: Commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Victory Against U.S. Aggression. A panel discussion. Sun., May 5, 7:30 p.m. 510 Commonwealth Ave., 4th floor (Kenmore T). Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (617) 262-4621.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

The True Story of the Vietnamese Revolution. Speaker: Susan Berman, activist in U.S. anti-Vietnam War movement, member Socialist Workers Party. Sun., April 28, 7 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

Socialist Workers Campaign Open House and Rally. Speaker: Kibwe Diarra, SWP candidate for mayor of Detroit. Sun., May 5, 5:30 p.m. 7146 W McNichols. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Socialist Workers '85 Campaign. For more information call (313) 862-7755.

MISSOURI

St. Louis

Desegregation and the Fight for Black Rights. A panel discussion. Speakers: Rayna Levine, former Kansas City school district desegregation plan coordinator; Joyce E. Wallace, chair of Education Committee of Kansas City, Mo.; Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Etta Ettlinger, Socialist Workers Party and member United Auto Workers Local 93. Translation to Spanish. Sun., April 28, 7 p.m. 4715 A Troost. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (816) 753-0404.

NEW YORK

Albany

What Causes Plant Shutdowns? Speakers: Walt Snyder, member, New York Public Employees Federation; Larry Lane, member United Steelworkers Local 8247 and Socialist Workers Party. Translation to Spanish. Fri., May 3, 8 p.m. 352 Central Ave., 2nd floor. Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Bookstore. For more information call (518) 434-3247.

Manhattan

May Day Celebration Book Sale. Discount of 20 percent with this ad on initial visit. Books in English, Spanish, and French. May 1-4, 12 noon - 7 p.m. 79 Leonard St. (5 blocks south of Canal between B'way and Church). Ausp: Socialist Books/Libreria Socialista. For more information call (212) 226-8445.

GEORGIA

Atlanta: SWP, YSA, 504 Flat Shoals Ave. SE. Zip: 30316. Tel: (404) 577-4065.

ILLINOIS: **Chicago:** SWP, YSA, 3455 S Michigan Ave. Zip: 60616. Tel: (312) 326-5853 or 326-5453.

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St. Louis: SWP, YSA, 3109 S. Grand, #22. Zip: 63118. Tel: (314) 772-4410.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Militant Bookstore Grand Opening Celebration.

1. Program: "Reagan's Wars Against Working People — from the United States to Central America to South Africa." Speaker: Mac Warren, National Organizational Secretary of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., May 11, 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$2.

2. Classes: "History and Lessons for the Civil Rights Movement." Sat., May 11, 2 p.m. "The Road Forward for Black Liberation Today." Sun., May 12, 11 a.m. Speaker: Mac Warren. 2219 E Market. Donation: \$1.50 per class.

Ausp: Militant Bookstore. For more information call (919) 272-5996.

OHIO

Cleveland

The Fight Against Police Brutality. A panel discussion. Sat., May 4, 7:30 p.m. 15105 St. Clair Ave., Donation: \$2. Ausp: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call: (216) 451-6150.

Jobs not War! Socialist Workers Campaign Rally. Speaker: Henry Scheer, SWP candidate for mayor of Cleveland; Gary Watson, candidate of Canadian Revolutionary Workers League in Toronto, parliamentary elections; others. Sat., May 11, 6:30 p.m., reception; 7:30 p.m., rally. 15105 St. Clair. Donation: \$3. Ausp: Socialist Workers 1985 Campaign Committee. For more information call (216) 451-6150.

OREGON

Portland

How to Win Jobs, Peace, and Justice. Two classes and a forum.

Classes: 1. "How the Cubans and Nicaraguans Fight for Peace." Chris Brandlon, organizer, Portland Young Socialist Alliance and member International Association of Machinists Lodge 1005. Sat., May 4, 1 p.m.

2. "How the Cubans and Nicaraguans Fight for Jobs and Justice." Marklyn Wilson, Socialist Workers Party and member Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union Local 128. Sat., May 4, 3 p.m.

Forum: "Can Working People in the United States Make Revolution?" Speaker: Derrick Adams, SWP candidate for mayor of Oakland, member IAM. 7:30 p.m. Sat., May 4, 2732 NE Union. \$1 each class, \$2 for forum. Ausp: Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers

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American Way of Death — The ashes of a destitute World War II veteran were dug up when his disabled daughter couldn't pay



Harry Ring

the \$706 burial balance left by the VA. Explained the Bellevue, Wash., cemetery manager, "I don't want to think I'm a cold person. But we're not in the welfare business."

Free enterprise way — Did you take a pay cut or get an insulting "increase" last year? Not to worry. Some folks did better. Like the chairman of IBM. He "earned" \$3.8 million. For the head of General Dynamics, it was \$3.1 million. And the top dog at Exxon drew \$2.6 million. "It certainly was a good year for executives," a Wall Street specialist opined.

Living testimonial — We're sure American Airlines will offer a bonus flight to the fellow who was eating lunch on that flight where one of the plane's engines fell off. Hearing the explosion and feeling the plane shudder, he thought, "What a terrible last meal."

Funniest headline of the week — "Wall Street Must Choose Between Quality and Fast Buck" — *The Wall Street Journal*.

P.S. — Somehow the above reminded us of the old Jack Benny wheeze. The gunman demands, "Your money or your life." Benny responds, "Lemme think it over."

Upwardly mobile — "We are the corporate board of the country. What we do affects every other corporate board in the country. The corporate board members can buy and sell us 14 times over. It's human nature for a guy who runs in those circles to want to live like the people he sees day in and day out." — Rep. Robert Livingston

(R-La.) complaining that he can't live off \$75,000 a year.

Made in heaven? — Researchers are trying to establish scientifically the basis of successful marriages. They find that neither love nor a vigorous sex life contribute much. About the only tangible factor they could find was the ability of couples to discuss their incompatibilities.

Affairs of state — Muriel Hartley, secretary to Alexander Haig, former secretary of state, says a vexing problem is who to put on the line first in phone calls. "If the person is senior to Mr. Haig, I get him on first," she said. "But, for instance, if he's calling

Henry Kissinger ... or George Shultz, I try to get them both on at the same time. It's real tricky."

Probably tax deductible — To relieve the distress of April 15, Vicks handed out sample antacid drops at post offices in 12 cities.

Thought for the week — "What happens to a person in life, the circumstances a person is born into, the race, handicapping conditions, the sex — these circumstances are there to help the individual grow toward spiritual perfection." — Dr. Eileen Gardner, an official of the federal Education Department and virulent opponent of educational aid to the handicapped.

Socialist open house draws hundreds in Washington

Continued from Page 5

Nicaraguan *contras* and the government in El Salvador. And I figured it's time for me to change my views on certain things."

Quickley said Hunter had gotten him interested in the YSA and, "I'm beginning to learn about a lot of things I never paid any attention to. Things I'd watch on the news and didn't understand. So I plan to continue with this."

Rebecca Garnett works at the University of Missouri in Columbia. Through her activity in antiwar coalitions and the farm protest movement, she met members of the SWP from Kansas City. She was drawn to them because she felt they had the soundest approach to building effective coalitions. She was so impressed that she's been "commuting" the 250 miles to Kansas City for political discussion.

Garnett has considered herself a socialist for a long time, but had "an intellectual's dislike" for party organization. Getting to know the SWP, she said, changed that. "It's terrific," she said, "to find a group of people who put their theory into practice."

She's looking forward to attending the YSA convention in Chicago next month and continuing the learning process.

Shelton McCrae of Detroit is also going to the YSA convention. He's a new member of the SWP.

For the past 12 years he's worked in a General Dynamics plant organized by the United Auto Workers.

A union activist, he came to know several SWP members in the plant through work on various union committees. He found himself drawn to the ideas they raised and the positions they took.

He had many political discussions with them and began reading the *Militant* and attending the Militant Labor Forum.

Initially, one of the main topics of discussion with his socialist coworkers was the Jesse Jackson campaign.

"At first I was attracted to the Jackson campaign," he explained. "It was the first of its kind for a Black man. And he was talking about building a rainbow coalition."

"I finally began to see that the main thrust of the rainbow coalition wasn't to build a separate movement, but to register Blacks as Democratic voters and, in the end, back Mondale for president."

It wasn't too long after that McCrae joined the SWP.

He's found membership a rewarding ex-

perience and was particularly pleased about the work he and his coworkers did in helping to build April 20.

"We had good discussion and debate about our local supporting the action," he said, "and a resolution was adopted endorsing it. We brought seven of our coworkers with us to the demonstration."

We had a lively discussion with a group from New England. Two are new YSA members at the University of New Hampshire, one a Boston high schooler who just joined, and the fourth a student at the Massachusetts College of Art who's joining this week.

The art student, Jeff Guenette, said his initial interest in socialism was aroused not by big world issues, but was "on a small, more immediate scale." As an artist, he had become indignant at the extent to which computers were being integrated into studies. He explained this is almost totally oriented to design students, that is those aiming for commercial art careers in such fields as advertising.

Through discussion with a fellow student who's a member of the SWP, Guenette began to see "the connection between this small-scale issue and what's going on in

the world — in El Salvador, Nicaragua, South Africa."

Bob Debarge of the University of New Hampshire had bought a *Militant* at a community sale in Boston. He read the copy and sent in a subscription. He then visited the Boston SWP and YSA offices and arranged for YSAers to lead some discussion on his campus.

Debarge said that when he came across the *Militant* he had already been looking at other left groups. For him the most attractive single thing about the *Militant* was the weekly column, "Selling Our Press at the Plant Gate." To him this showed that the SWP and YSA were serious about reaching workers with socialist ideas. "I felt that a lot of the other groups weren't really connected with workers," he said.

Heather Randall is another member of the campus study group who joined the YSA. She agrees on the idea of orienting toward workers. "I like the idea of helping to educate working people politically," she said. "I think they have a lot of strength. Probably more than any other group in society. I think this is very basic in bringing about social change."

Ana Borden Muñoz is a Boston-area high schooler who was introduced to the YSA by Debarge. She attended several meetings of the Militant Labor Forum and joined. Since then, she's interested several school friends in the YSA. Like Randall and Debarge, she's planning to attend the YSA convention.

For all of the New England group, it was their first national demonstration. Debarge summed up a shared reaction: "It impressed the hell out of me."

'Militant' to run Castro interview on Latin American debt

With the next issue of the *Militant*, we will begin serializing a major interview with Fidel Castro on the subject of Latin America's foreign debt. The interview was given on March 21 to the Mexican daily newspaper, *Excelsior*. The interview will be run in four installments.

The interview is entitled, "How Latin America's and the Third World's unpayable foreign debt can and should be canceled and the pressing need for the new international economic order." In the interview, Castro gives an in-depth analysis of how imperialism exploits the Latin American countries, has caused a major economic crisis, and saddled them with massive debts.

Castro also explains how the imperialist system works, through the International Monetary Fund and in other ways, to exploit colonial and semi-colonial countries, and he lays bare the injustice of the imperialist system. "Nobody has the right," he says, "to pay starvation wages for the cocoa, tea, coffee, cashew nuts, peanuts, coconuts and fibers that are gathered leaf by leaf and grain by grain; the minerals and other raw materials in order to manufacture aircraft carriers, battleships, strategic missiles and nuclear submarines and to pay for star wars weapons. Those resources should be invested in the war on hunger, here on earth."

FBI harasses visitors to Nicaragua

Continued from front page

She also said that someone had broken into her office and stolen a mailing list, two files, and several books.

Michael Ratner, attorney for the Center for Constitutional Rights, said that two women — one in Minnesota, the other in Wisconsin — had been targeted by the IRS after visiting Nicaragua.

Immediately on their return, they found themselves the subject of income tax audits. The Wisconsin woman had never earned more than \$12,000 a year and had never before had her tax return audited.

Ratner also said that he had been contacted by a worker in a war plant whose security clearance was questioned after he returned from Nicaragua.

Beth Perry of the Washington office of the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) said she had documented 15 cases of people in a dozen cities who were subjected to FBI visits because of their involvement with the organization, which opposes U.S. intervention in the Salvadoran civil war.

One purpose of the visit by the political cops, she said, seemed to be to try to discredit CISPES. Sometimes those queried would be asked if they knew how the organization's money was being spent.

The FBI activity coincides with a virulent right-wing smear campaign against CISPES.

Another participant in the anti-Nicar-

agua harassment is the U.S. Customs Service, which has been subjecting returning visitors to political interrogation and confiscating literature and personal material on behalf of the FBI and other police agencies.

In response to this, the Center for Constitutional Rights has initiated court action on behalf of Edward Haase, a Kansas City radio engineer and free-lance journalist.

Returning from Nicaragua, he had been detained by Customs in Miami until arrival of an FBI agent. The agent took his address book, diary, manuscripts of two articles, and a mailing list of Nicaragua solidarity groups. Later Haase saw the agent making copies of the material.

Participants in tours sponsored by Militant/Perspectiva Mundial Tours, Inc., have also been harassed by Customs cops upon returning from Nicaragua.

Ratner announced that the Center for Constitutional Rights is renewing a suit filed in 1982 against Reagan administration guidelines illegally expanding FBI and CIA "counterintelligence" surveillance in this country.

That suit was dismissed on the basis that it did not include complaints from persons asserting they had suffered damages as a result of such surveillance.

"Today," Ratner said, "we obviously have got a large number of complaints, and we plan to renew our suit as soon as we can obtain sufficient affidavits."

What these government agencies are doing — and the purpose behind it — is certainly not new.

Such illegal political police activity was especially widespread during the Vietnam War. The movement in opposition to the war came under virulent assault, as did the women's and Black and Latino rights movements. Socialists and union activists were also spied on and harassed.

In the wake of the Watergate scandal,

enough of these dirty tricks were brought to light that, for a period, agencies like the FBI and CIA had to assume the public posture that they were cleaning up their act.

Actions like the Socialist Workers Party suit against the government and its political police forced these agencies onto the defensive.

Spying and harassment, however, never ceased. They were carried out secretly or under new guidelines that supposedly made dirty tricks illegal.

But today, with the rulers' determined efforts to crush the Nicaraguan revolution and beat back the liberation forces in El Salvador, the drive to intimidate and stifle the opposition has been intensified — including a public political campaign led by the president.

Reagan's anti-Sandinista, anticommunist speeches week after week are part of a right-wing ideological offensive. The aim is to convince working people that political spying and harassment of opponents of the government's foreign policies — particularly supporters of the Nicaraguan revolution and national liberation struggles worldwide — is essential to protect "National Security."

During the Vietnam War, these government methods and anticommunist propaganda did have an impact, but in the long run they proved ineffective. Despite the rulers' best efforts to prevent it, the antiwar movement won a majority of the U.S. working people, including the GIs.

The present drive is aimed at the democratic rights of all working people, not just dissenting activists, as the government deepens its war in Central America. Resolute opposition is essential.

People are not legally required to talk to FBI snoops, and they should be made aware that they don't have to and they should not.

Barricada Internacional, the weekly official voice of the Sandinista National Liberation Front, is now available in Spanish and English. The price is 6 months for \$12.

Send check or money order to Barricada Internacional Apdo. No. 576 Managua, Nicaragua.

Students stand up to apartheid

"We stand together in solidarity with the 23 million blacks in South Africa. . . . join us in awakening the consciousness of the nation and the world."

These lines are from the call for a National Student Anti-apartheid Protest Day, Wednesday, April 24. The call is by students from Berkeley, Columbia, Cornell, Princeton, Rutgers, and Santa Cruz, and other campuses organizing against U.S. corporate and government support for apartheid.

The campus protests come in the context of an upsurge in the struggle against the U.S. government's support to apartheid here. Thousands of unionists, Black activists, students from colleges and high schools, prominent individuals, and others have participated in picket lines at the South African embassy and consulates across the country.

According to the April 20 AFL-CIO News, the executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU), with which the AFL-CIO is affiliated, has called for economic sanctions against the apartheid regime. The ICFTU claims to represent 83 million workers in 143 labor organizations in 99 countries.

Lane Kirkland, president of the AFL-CIO, has agreed to support such an effort, although no companies have been targeted at this time. Kirkland told reporters that the decision of the executive board of ICFTU "is not simply to improve the performance of apartheid, or to ameliorate or to seek a way of living with apartheid. We want to eliminate apartheid."

For several years there have been activities on campuses across the country for divestment. But the broad opposition to U.S. government and corporate support for apartheid seen today reflects the growing awareness among working people and students of the brutality of the racist regime and Washington's complicity with it.

The ongoing revolt by South Africa's Black majority led by workers has inspired students to step up their protests. It has encouraged them to reach out and win support for their struggle from youth across the country, from unions, from organizations of the oppressed nationalities, and many others.

The students have also linked their battle for divest-

ment with the growing fight to end the U.S. war in Central America.

At a rally in support of Columbia students, hundreds of people came from Harlem, *El Barrio* (East Harlem), and the Upper West Side to stand with the students.

Union officials from 1199 of the Hospital Workers; American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees; and District 65 of the United Auto Workers all spoke at the rally. Trade unionists have participated in the nightly rallies held at Columbia, bringing the food and other supplies that have been donated by the unions. The students at Berkeley have won similar support from unions and the Black, Latino, and Asian communities in northern California.

These protests, along with the April 20 Actions for Peace, Jobs, and Justice, where tens of thousands of mainly young people demonstrated against the U.S. government's war against Nicaragua and its support for apartheid, point to a growing solidarity among young people here with working people fighting for freedom around the world.

These actions fly in the face of big business propaganda that tries to portray most youth as conservative and apolitical.

Students will be continuing their fight to get universities to divest funds from companies doing business in South Africa. According to Josh Nessen of the American Committee on Africa, students from across the country will be testifying at the United Nations hearings on apartheid May 8. A meeting is planned after the hearings to map out a fall campaign to fight divestment.

The broad support students have won in their battle for university divestment and the number and breadth of other actions against apartheid reflect the potential that exists to build a powerful movement against U.S. government and corporate support for apartheid.

More mobilizations like April 20 and campus protests can serve to build and deepen an alliance among labor, the oppressed nationalities and students to fight the rulers' reactionary policies in Central America and South Africa, and their attacks on working people at home.

How Lenin used May Day to inspire Russian workers

In 1866, one year after the end of the Civil War in the United States, a newly formed organization called the National Labor Union initiated a campaign calling for the enactment of legislation for an eight-hour day.

That same year the International Workingmen's Association headed by Karl Marx also passed a resolution calling for a reduction in the hours of work.

During the next 20 years, there was growing support for the shorter work day and in 1886 most of the major trade unions and working class political organizations set May 1, 1886, as the day to inaugurate the eight-hour day.

OUR REVOLUTIONARY HERITAGE

Massive strikes and demonstrations occurred across the United States, many of which were brutally attacked by the police.

In 1890, the newly organized American Federation of Labor renewed the struggle for the eight-hour day and on May 1 of that year there were more mass demonstrations and strikes.

It was these struggles, initiated by U.S. workers, that inspired workers everywhere and quickly led to the establishment of May Day as an international workers' holiday celebrated around the world, including in Tsarist Russia.

The following quotes are from an article written by V.I. Lenin, central leader of the 1917 Russian revolution, in April 1904. The article commemorated May Day and urged Russian workers to intensify their struggle against tsarist oppression — one year before the 1905 revolution. It appears in Vol. 7, page 197, of Lenin's Collected Works.

* * *

Comrade workers! May Day is coming, the day when the workers of all lands celebrate their awakening to a class-conscious life, their solidarity in the struggle against all coercion and oppression of man by man, the struggle to free the toiling millions from hunger, poverty, and humiliation. Two worlds stand facing each other in this great struggle: the world of capital and the world of labour, the world of exploitation and slavery and the world of brotherhood and freedom.

On one side stand the handful of rich blood-suckers. They have seized the factories and mills, the tools and machinery, have turned millions of acres of land and mountains of money into their private property. They have made the government and the army their servants, faithful watchdogs of the wealth they have amassed.

On the other side stand the millions of the disinherited. They are forced to beg the moneybags for permission to work for them. By their labour they create all wealth; yet all their lives long they have to struggle for a crust of bread, beg for work as for charity, sap their strength and health by back-breaking toil, and starve in hovels in the villages or in the cellars and garrets of the big cities.

But now these disinherited toilers have declared war on the moneybags and exploiters. The workers of all lands are fighting to free labour from wage slavery, from poverty and want. They are fighting for a system of society where the wealth created by the common labour will go to benefit, not a handful of rich men, but all those who work. They want to make the land and the factories, mills, and machines the common property of all toilers.

The great struggle of labour against capital has cost the workers of all countries immense sacrifices. They have shed rivers of blood in behalf of their right to a better life and real freedom. Those who fight for the workers' cause are subjected by the governments to untold persecution. But in spite of all persecution the solidarity of the workers of the world is growing and gaining in strength.

The Russian proletariat, too, has awakened to a new life. It too has joined this great struggle. Gone are the days when our worker slaved submissively, seeing no escape from his state of bondage, no glimmer of light in his bitter life. Socialism has shown him the way out, and thousands upon thousands of fighters have thronged to the red banner, as to a guiding star.

The old Russia is dying. A free Russia is coming to take its place. The dark forces that guarded the tsarist autocracy are going under. But only the class-conscious and organised proletariat can deal them their death-blow. Only the class-conscious and organised proletariat can win real, not sham, freedom for the people. Only the class-conscious and organised proletariat can thwart every attempt to deceive the people, to curtail their rights, to make them a mere tool in the hands of the bourgeoisie.

Comrade workers! Let the celebration of May Day win thousands of new fighters to our cause and swell our forces in the great struggle for the freedom of all the people, for the liberation of all who toil from the yoke of capital!

Celebrate Vietnam's victory

On May 5 a broadly sponsored meeting will be held in New York City to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the triumph of the Vietnamese people — backed by an international antiwar movement — over U.S. intervention and occupation. This was an historic victory for humanity and a giant step forward for working people throughout the world and in this country. (See article on back page and ad on page 16.)

The heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people gave confidence to the oppressed and exploited around the world that they could stand up and win in the fight against imperialist domination. The Vietnamese example continues to inspire antiwar fighters today who are organizing against Washington's dirty war against Nicaragua and its support to the racist apartheid regime in South Africa. It shows that it is only by fighting imperialism that victory is possible.

That's why the U.S. government is qualitatively escalating its hostile actions against Vietnam and Kampuchea today. Not only has the U.S. government refused to pay the \$3.5 billion in reconstruction aid promised to Vietnam in 1973, it has organized a political and economic embargo against Vietnam. The U.S. government has also said it will fund counterrevolutionary Kampuchean in their murderous campaign against the workers and farmers of Kampuchea and Vietnam.

In this country, the rulers' reactionary attacks against Vietnam have emboldened right-wing Vietnamese terrorist organizations to operate with impunity. Vietnamese scholar Ngo Vinh Long has been placed under "sentence of death" by rightist thugs who have murdered at least three Vietnamese and physicist Ed Cooperman, chair of the U.S. Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam.

Last June, a signal gain for civil liberties was won when for the first time a major celebration of the anniversary of the Vietnamese victory — at which a Vietnamese representative spoke — took place without any physical attack or intimidation by enemies of the Vietnamese revolution.

On April 20, tens of thousands of people took to the streets to protest U.S. imperialism's war against the people of Nicaragua and El Salvador. "We remember Vietnam!" and "No new Vietnams in Central America!" were two of the most frequently heard chants.

The May 5 rally will be a way to protest the stepped-up imperialist campaign against Vietnam and Kampuchea, and to advance the struggle against U.S. imperialism's new war in Central America. We urge the broadest support and participation in this major commemoration of Vietnam's victory.

Behind those big libel suits

The moves to curb freedom of the press were given a new boost with the April 9 decision by a federal appeals court panel upholding a \$2-million libel judgment against the *Washington Post*.

The suit was brought by the former president of Mobil Oil and, like recent similar ones, was designed to force self-censorship on the press. The threat of such very costly suits is a potent weapon in making papers think twice and more about what stories they publish.

The reason why such self-censorship is being pushed for was made plain enough by the court's opinion which, pointed to the *Washington Post's* asserted reputation as a "muckraking" paper. It went so far as to note specifically the involvement of *Post* assistant managing editor Robert Woodward. Along with Carl Bernstein, Woodward had written some of the early 1970s articles detailing the role of the Nixon White House in the Watergate scandal and associated dirty tricks.

The present libel finding against the *Post* results from a 1979 suit against the paper by William Tavoulareas, former president of Mobil Oil.

The *Post* had reported that Tavoulareas' son had risen

quickly from a \$14,000 a year clerkship job to head a steamship company that did business with Mobil. The paper saw nepotism involved in the son's rapid rise from the ranks.

In a sense, there's a certain irony that major members of the big-business media, which so loyally tailor the news on behalf of capitalist interests, should be on the receiving end of such suits.

It underlines that the U.S. ruling class, and the government that represents it, have so much to hide that even faithful servants are targeted for restriction.

During the Grenada invasion, for the first time, the media was totally barred from covering the operation. That then was used as a precedent for establishing defined limits on press coverage of such invasions, with only a Pentagon-selected "pool" to be on hand. The idea behind the "pool" was to include reporters under initial secrecy, to preserve the security of pending military operations.

The increased use of the libel weapon is not unrelated. The ultimate targets are the democratic rights — including the right to know the truth — of working people.

Victim of cop attack has right of self-defense

BY ALLAN GRADY

SAN DIEGO — "It seems to be perfectly permissible, according to the police department, to maliciously assault a suspect and not expect any retaliation."

"I've seen cops choke out people. I've seen fights with resultant incarceration for assault on a police officer. Each incident was sparked, not by criminals, but by otherwise law-abiding citizens [who were simply] illegally parked...."

The above two excerpts from the "Letters to the Editor" section of the *San Diego Union* are examples of

witness, "They kept insisting that Sagon was a gang member and when he tried to walk away, one of the officers grabbed him and started hitting him. Even when they started hitting him with night sticks, he said, 'Please stop. You don't know what you are doing. I could really hurt you.'"

Penn, a black belt in karate, finally pulled the officer's gun and shot him. When the other officer went for his gun, Penn shot him and the other passenger in the police car. One of the cops died.

Penn turned himself in to the police a half hour after the incident.

Dozens of witnesses saw the cop attack and agreed with the witness quoted above. This explains why the police took two days before they even made a statement on the incident. Their claim is that Penn threw the first blow. They could not deny that the cops beat him.

Beginning with front-page, full-color photos of the cop's funeral, the *San Diego Union* has been on a daily campaign to glorify the police and change the story in readers' minds. Each day sees page after page of articles attempting to refurbish the image of the San Diego Police Department. The local TV and press agonize over why so many San Diego cops are killed, never mentioning the real issue: Why do the San Diego police continue to make

the Black and Chicano communities, and working people in general, their victims of harassment? Nowhere in the media is there mention of the scores of San Diegans murdered by the San Diego cops.

And now there is an attempt to try Sagon Penn in the media over an arrest as a robbery suspect over a year ago. Though there was not even enough evidence to charge Penn with the 1983 robbery, and the victim couldn't identify him at the time, both the *San Diego Union* and the *Los Angeles Times* have run several stories on the robbery, each time coming closer to convicting him in the press of a crime the police felt they couldn't even charge him with at the time.

Sagon Penn is well-liked in the community. As one friend said, "Sagon is the type who stops fights, not starts them." And the overwhelming number of working people of San Diego support his right to defend himself.

A defense fund set up to raise the \$250,000 bail money is being contributed to by working people — Black, white, and Chicano — as many of them remember their own stories of police harassment and want to see some real justice done. Contributions should be sent to The Sagon Penn Legal Fund, P.O. Box 8206, San Diego, California 92102.

AS I SEE IT

the outrage felt toward the police sparked by a recent racist incident in San Diego.

On the night of March 31, Sagon Penn, a 23-year-old Black man, was stopped by two San Diego police officers while driving with friends.

One of the cops began harassing Penn, claiming he was a gang member, then demanded he show identification. Penn handed the officer his wallet. According to a

7,000 in L.A. say 'No contra aid,' 'Free Mandela!'

Continued from Page 6

themselves from groups such as East Los Angeles MECHA, West Side Nuclear Freeze, and the Coalition for Peace and Jobs with Justice.

University of California students carried a banner with the word "sanctuary" in big letters, reflecting their recent decision to declare the UCLA campus a sanctuary for undocumented Central American refugees.

There was a Mideast contingent, calling for justice for Palestinians, and a Jewish contingent that echoed that demand. A Korean contingent called for "no U.S. troops in Korea or Central America."

The rally, which got under way shortly after 2 p.m., led off with greetings from a visiting Salvadoran poet, and remarks by Salvador Sanabria, representing the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front-Revolutionary Democratic Front of El Salvador.

L.A. city councilman Robert Farrell, a cochair of the April 20 Coalition, announced that he had been told by students at the University of Southern California

and UCLA that they planned to join students at U.C. Berkeley in sitting-in on their campuses to demand that the U.C. Board of Regents get rid of investments in companies doing business in South Africa.

Sipho Cele of the African National Congress of South Africa addressed the crowd.

Valinda Jackson, vice-president of the Los Angeles County AFL-CIO, condemned U.S. support for apartheid and U.S. aggression in countries in Central America. She also condemned U.S. policy toward Mexico, which has been subjected to border-crossing harassment by the United States.

Antonio Rodriguez of the Coalition Pro Visas and Rights for Undocumented, demanded prosecution of a U.S. border patrolman who had just recently shot a Mexican youth on the Tijuana side of the border.

Greg Santillan, coordinator of the Filipino contingent, and Angela Davis, cochair of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, also spoke.

Marta Alicia Rivera, a leader of the El

Salvadoran teachers union, who recently won the right to asylum in the United States, told of being imprisoned at the hands of the death squads in El Salvador.

Tables featuring materials from the local Militant Bookstore did a brisk business, bringing in over \$500. Fifty copies of the new Pathfinder book of speeches of Sandinista leaders were bought. A Young

Socialist Alliance table also drew much interest. Demonstrators bought more than 400 copies of the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*.

As part of the April Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice, 150 people attended a rally on April 20 in Tucson, Arizona, and 250 people came out for a rally in Phoenix on April 21.

Chicano activist faces new frame-up

Continued from back page
flee for his life.

He wasn't being paranoid. In May 1974, his brother Reyes and five other Chicano activists died in car-bomb explosions. As they often do in such cases, the cops claimed the victims had died at their own hand — that they were carrying bombs they had made, which exploded. But all evidence was suppressed.

In 1980, trying to return home, Martinez was arrested in Nogales, Arizona. The government then tried him twice but

couldn't get a conviction. Now it's prosecuting him again, this time for giving "false information." That is, he was using a different name when arrested.

All Chicanos, all other oppressed nationalities, all working people and other defenders of democratic rights have a stake in fighting this latest persecution of Kiko Martinez.

Contributions and statements of support can be sent to the Kiko Martinez Defense Committee, P.O. Box 753, Alamosa, Colorado 81101.

LETTERS

Farm-labor alliance

John Ernestvedt is a farmer who has been active in the farm protest movement for 60 years, and who has been a socialist for most of that time. During the Great Depression, Ernestvedt organized and led militant actions in Minnesota that prevented farm foreclosures and helped force the state to declare farm-debt moratoriums. In the following letter, Ernestvedt comments on the formation of a new national organization, the Farm-Labor Alliance, that met in St. Louis, Missouri, on March 23, 1985, and which brought together farm and union leaders.



Militant/John Staggs

I cannot help but comment on a front-page story in the April 12 *Militant* by Jeff Dorfman: "National farm-labor group formed." This is the most significant political news thus far in 1985. A takeoff of a farm-labor alliance — with a powerful labor union as the driving force — is now on the minds of all who have been looking toward a better future for the vast majority of the populace.

It is also a most timely development, coming as it does in the wake of the call for the April 19-22 Actions for Peace, Jobs and Justice. This will most certainly add a great deal to the momentum of the preparations for a massive demonstration in Washington,

D.C. It is the best of good omens on American soil for workers, farmers, women, aged, youth, all racial minorities — for the down-trodden.

Nothing raises my head higher than to read the remarks by the militant farm and labor leadership. It is so right that the foreclosures on farms (the worst ever), as well as foreclosures on the homes of workers and on small businesses, are being met by fightback efforts by all whose living conditions have become intolerable through no fault of their own.

The March 23 meeting in St. Louis signals a new dawn for working people. The Americas

will never be the same again. It is a working-class dawn and the beginning of the end for the Republicans and Democrats. No more of this two-party capitalist system, taking more and more out of our wages and living conditions. We will provide. No more of this takeback of our wages.

What we have started to do will be a signal to all the people of Nicaragua that the *contras* now have acquired a most powerful enemy inside the United States itself. No more of this killing of workers and farmers in Nicaragua, at the same time that farms and jobs are being taken away from workers and farmers here at home.

All over the world many will now be drying away their tears of want, for a most powerful force on earth, for the very best in work, in thought, and in intellect that mankind has to offer will now be uniting on an international level. That force for the better is the working class of the world.

John Ernestvedt
Sacred Heart, Minnesota

Political Lesson

High school students in Amesbury, Massachusetts, recently received a valuable political lesson. Amesbury is a small town located on the Merrimack River about 35 miles north of Boston.

Teachers in Amesbury have been working for a year without a contract. The school committee recently rejected a proposed con-

tract that would provide a 31 percent increase over three years. Current salaries average \$17,000 per year.

At 11:00 a.m. on Monday, March 18, 1985, 335 students walked out of their classrooms in support of the teachers' struggle for the new contract. This strike involved more than half of the students. The *Boston Globe* reported that the students, "left the school in an orderly manner and there were no incidents of vandalism."

On Tuesday morning the students returned to school and were sent to the auditorium where the principal suspended them for three days. This lockout in turn outraged many of the students' parents.

Four hundred people jammed a Tuesday meeting to protest the suspensions. The principal who had suspended the students was forced to back down and reinstate all the students the following day.

All in all a very educational week in Amesbury. Meanwhile the teachers are still without a contract.

Ron Richards
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Wants to read

I am a prisoner confined in the Louisiana State Penitentiary, at Angola. I am presently in isolative segregation because of my civil rights litigation here. We make no money here. When I am in general

population, we are "compensated" to the extent of 1¢ an hour for our labor in the fields. Another cent goes into "our" savings account — from which the prison officials draw the interest.

A friend who just left my area of segregation was receiving the *Militant*, and I read a few of his old copies. The *Militant* speaks the truth as I recognize it.

We are not provided any form of media here in segregation, no T.V., no radio, no newspapers. Perhaps that is good. For the most part, the controlled media is establishment propaganda, anyway. It was refreshing to read the *Militant*, and to realize that it is a source for facts about America's involvement in other countries.

In one issue of the *Militant*, I read an article which applauded a work of Karl Marx, entitled *Capital*. I am very much interested in social justice issues, and I suspect that a more socialistic form of government would benefit our people. Can you tell me how to obtain a copy, perhaps on loan, of *Capital*?

A prisoner
Angola, Louisiana

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Defend Francisco 'Kiko' Martínez

Chicano activist faces new political frame-up trial

BY DUNCAN WILLIAMS

DENVER — Francisco "Kiko" Martínez will soon go on trial in a federal court in Tucson, Arizona. The charge against him is giving the government false information. It will be his third trial in four years. Like the previous two trials, this one is a straight political frame-up.

To understand why the government is so determined to get Kiko Martínez, it's worth taking a brief look at recent Chicano history.

In the mid-1960s and early 1970s, a militant Chicano movement developed throughout the Southwest.

In the cities and in the fields, Chicanos and *mexicanos* rallied behind *La causa* — the "cause" — centered around the battle to organize the United Farm Workers.

On the campuses, Chicano students fought academic racism. Their activist organizations won the implementation of numerous Chicano studies departments.

In the *barrios*, there was an ongoing fight against police brutality and victimization by the hated Immigration and Naturalization Service cops, *la migra*. They fought *la migra* to end deportations.

Community control of the schools was fought for and bilingual education was established in many communities, particularly in the Southwest.

Chicanos were early, militant opponents of the Vietnam war.

Increasing numbers of Chicanos came to recognize that neither of the two capitalist parties would or could advance the movement for Chicano liberation. An independent party, *La Raza Unida* Party, developed and won encouraging support.

In response to the Chicano upsurge, federal and local politicians and cops waged a ruthless struggle to break the movement — by any means necessary.

Chicano activists were beaten and sometimes murdered; others were framed up and railroaded to prison. The FBI had a special program going — Operation CHAOS — designed specifically to combat the Chicano movement with intimidation, disruption, provocation, and a host of other illegal dirty tricks.

Movement attorneys were kept busy defending the victims of racist frame-ups. One Chicano attorney who won special community respect for his devotion to the struggle was Kiko Martínez.

Denver was a strong center of the Chicano struggle, and Martínez was in the thick of it.

A farm youth from Alamosa, Colorado, he became a lawyer and represented Chicanos throughout the state. His principal base of activity was in Denver, where he represented, among others, the Crusade for Justice — then a widely respected Chicano organization whose militancy brought especially heavy police repression against it.

Since those days most organizations disappeared or retreated into sectarian isolation. Some leaders became inactive. Others made their peace with the powers that be and joined or returned to the Democratic Party machine.

Kiko Martínez stood his ground.

For that reason the government is still waging a campaign to get him.

Back in Alamosa, working on his family farm, Martínez is still fighting racism. He's an outspoken opponent of Congressional anti-immigration legislation and its Colorado counterpart. He's still against the twin parties of racism.

He's opposed to the U.S. imperialist drive to crush the Nicaraguan revolution and the freedom struggle in El Salvador, and he's very much for Cuba.

Condemning Washington's war against Nicaragua, Martínez stated, "Anywhere we see a popular revolutionary movement triumph in an underdeveloped country, we



Militant photos

Francisco 'Kiko' Martínez (right). Chicano activist faces fourth frame-up trial. Picket line and other protests helped to win Martínez's freedom in past and are needed today.

see right away how the developed countries, the empires, put a stranglehold on that country and not let it develop its own course. They end up blockading or attacking them, like they're now doing in Nicaragua."

For a period after the frame-up indictment against him, Martínez was forced into political exile. During this time, he spent several months living in Cuba, where he was able to see first-hand the great gains of the revolution. "You can't equate what

you see in the streets there with what you see in the rest of the underdeveloped world," Kiko Martínez said. "The level of health care, the kids in school, the well-dressed people, no beggars in the streets — the basic things of life they've won."

He thinks there are lessons to be learned here. Noting that Fidel Castro had called for a moratorium on debt payments for Third World countries, he said: "They should do that for farmers here."

He added, "It's nothing new here that

people who advocate return of the land to those from whom it was stolen, who want fair play in the distribution of water, get harassed."

Martínez has been more than harassed. He's facing prosecution on a trumped-up charge of sending letter bombs to a Denver cop, a school board member and a third person.

With a savage campaign against him in the media, Martínez decided in 1973 to

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10th anniversary of Vietnam victory

BY DIANE WANG

NEW YORK — A May 5 rally planned here to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the victory over U.S. military intervention in Vietnam will be a fitting reply to right-wing thugs who have been trying to intimidate supporters of Vietnam. [On significance of meeting, see editorial on page 18.]

Right-wing Vietnamese have carried out firebombings, ambushes, and even assassinations in recent years. Their violence fits in with the U.S. government's policy both to isolate Vietnam and to escalate its new Vietnam-style war in Central America.

Recently Vietnamese-language leaflets circulated in Massachusetts and California have pronounced a "sentence of death" on Ngo Vinh Long, a Vietnamese scholar known as a public critic of Washington's war policies. Four years ago Long narrowly escaped injury when his car was firebombed. He has often been the target of harassment and threats when he has spoken publicly.

A "Statement of Concern" urging the federal local law authorities to help protect Long is being circulated. Among those who have signed the statement are Margaret Burnham, Noam Chomsky, George Wald, and Howard Zinn.

Nguyen Van Luy, honorary president of the Association of Vietnamese in the United States, and a victim of a rightist ambush last year, described his case to the Vietnam Tenth Anniversary Committee during a recent trip to New York. He described the ambush that killed his wife, Pham Thi Luu, and about the failure of the police to find the assassins.

"I believe very deeply that I am a victim of the Reagan administration, not only of the right-wing Vietnamese. These mercenaries have a green light, encouragement from the government," Luy told representatives of the anniversary committee. He explained that the Committee for Justice for Thi Luu and Van Luy is demanding a more serious investigation of the attack.

The committee has received support from Rep. Don Edwards and has met with San Francisco Mayor Diane Feinstein.

Most recently, Prof. Ed Cooperman,

chairman of the U.S. Committee for Scientific Cooperation with Vietnam, was killed by a Vietnamese student. The suspect told another inmate in jail that he had killed Cooperman after being bribed and threatened by "a Vietnamese businessman." Nonetheless, the prosecutor refused to introduce all of the evidence available or probe the political motives for the murder. A grand jury returned a verdict of involuntary manslaughter against the assassin.

For more information about these cases write to: Committee of Concern, c/o American Friends Service Committee, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02140; Committee for Justice for Thi Luu and Van Luy, c/o U.S./Vietnam Friendship Association, P.O. Box 5043, San Francisco, Calif. 94101; or Committee

for Justice for Prof. Ed Cooperman, P.O. Box 753, Venice, Calif. 90291.

The purpose of all these attacks is to intimidate both activists working for solidarity with Vietnam and the developing anti-war movement that opposes the Vietnam-style war in Central America. Public rallies such as the one planned for May 5 are important responses to such intimidation.

The May 5 rally will demand "No more Vietnam wars in Central America," as well as an end to U.S. hostile actions against Vietnam. Representatives of Vietnam, Nicaragua, and El Salvador will speak. For more information about the rally, see ad on page 16 or write the Vietnam Tenth Anniversary Committee, P.O. Box 303, Prince St. Station, New York, N.Y. 10012.

Protest hits killer cop

BY BILL COLEMAN

CLEVELAND — Over 50 people picketed City Hall on April 15 following the cop murder of Marcos Luciano, Jr.

Luciano, a 23-year-old Puerto Rican worker, was shot and killed April 10 by Cleveland police detective Joseph Paskvan, who was supposedly investigating an auto theft, has claimed that Luciano aimed a sawed-off shotgun at him. The "shotgun" turned out to be a pellet gun, and at least one witness said he did not see Luciano raise any weapon.

The demonstrators, many of whom came to City Hall straight from the funeral and were still dressed in black, included members and friends of the Luciano family, relatives and friends of his widow, who is white, and Black activists from the Committee to Elect a Minority Mayor and People United Against Repression.

Henry Scheer, Socialist Workers candidate for mayor of Cleveland, and Lucius Woods, whose son Michael was killed by Paskvan in 1982, also participated. Woods has been waging a two and a half year battle for justice in his son's death. He is well

known in Cleveland as a determined fighter against police brutality.

For two hours the pickets marched in front of City Hall chanting, "Killer cops have gotta go," "Jail Paskvan now," and "Justice!" They then went inside City Hall to meet with police officials.

The City Hall meeting was emotionally charged, as the family asked questions to get to the root of Luciano's death: Why was he shot three times by someone with shooting experience? Isn't it true that he was shot at point-blank range? Why was Paskvan busy shooting Marcos when he was sent to the area to investigate a car theft? Why did Paskvan say Marcos had a sawed-off shotgun when this was a bold-faced lie?

Several people noted the official inaction around Paskvan's bloody career. Marvin Bishop, Luciano's father-in-law, said the family was concerned that Paskvan might be prejudiced against Blacks and Hispanic people. Police officials denied Paskvan was racist, pointing out that he "has shot white people, too!"

Paskvan has a history of racist brutality.

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